

LONDON WEEKLY NEWS & Hammersmith CHRONICLE



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Thursday, December 3rd 2015

■ **IN BUSINESS:** It was a night to remember for Hammersmith businesses as hundreds of entrepreneurs came together to celebrate another successful year. A string of enterprising local firms were presented with prizes during the coveted Hammersmith and Fulham Brilliant Business Awards, which were staged at the Town Hall. The Ravenscourt Dental Practice was named Hammersmith's best overall business after coming up trumps in a public vote, while there were also awards for the Raffaello Café, Fastsigns Hammersmith and the Villagio restaurant. Pictured are Dr Hitesh Bavia (centre), Shumaila Didarania (left) and Joanna Kordecka, from the Ravenscourt Dental Practice.
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INSIDE



Kate helps children denied a family life

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Sir Trevor lifts lid on Las Vegas

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Revealed: blueprint for our town centre

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

HAMMERSMITH'S business leaders have unveiled their vision for a "vibrant" town centre, after launching a five-year plan to improve the area.

A detailed masterplan outlines proposals to expand the range of events and attractions, reduce

the area's carbon footprint and tighten security to keep shoppers safe.

The plan was revealed by the 'HammersmithLondon' Business Improvement District – the independent not-for-profit company set up to develop the town centre. Its proposals set out a series of aims and objectives designed to help Hammersmith become one of London's top shopping destinations over the next five years.

TURN TO PAGE 3



■ **VISION:** BID director Patricia Bench.

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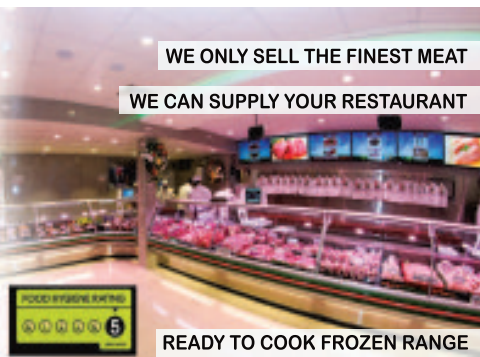


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CARPARKING

CAPITAL RELIEF AS MET POLICE FUNDING IS SPARED CHANCELLOR'S AXE

They protect us, we will protect them

THE Mayor of London has welcomed the Chancellor of the Exchequer's pledge to protect the police from budget cuts and to continue to target vital investment for transport and housing in the capital.

Chancellor George Osborne promised to ensure that the police will not face real-term reductions in budgets, one of Boris Johnson's key concerns for the capital ahead of the Government's Spending Review.

Since 2008, through efficiency savings and the sale of underutilised police buildings London has been able to keep officer numbers high at around 32,000, whilst safeguarding neighbourhood policing. The mayor believes that the Chancellor's promise to protect police budgets will allow the capital to maintain neighbourhood teams, which are vital in the continued fight against crime and terrorism.

Commenting on the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, Mr Johnson said: "Keeping London and Londoners safe is my number one priority as mayor. That's



FROM THE
MAYOR'S OFFICE

why I welcome the focus on keeping officer numbers high. It's absolutely the right thing to do.

"The Government's commitment to counter terror funding, neighbourhood policing and the protection of frontline officer numbers in London is of vital importance.

"Further savings will be necessary, as we continue to streamline and reform the Met Police, but this settlement allows us

to maintain those neighbourhood teams, whilst keeping officer numbers high, in our fight against terrorism, our drive to continue to reduce crime across London, and our determination to keep this city safe."

The mayor has also heralded major investment by the Chancellor into thousands of new 'starter homes' and shared ownership properties, plus an extension to Help to Buy, which will help to tackle an unprecedented demand for housing and build on the mayor's achievements to help more than 52,000 Londoners on to the housing ladder as part of his First Steps Scheme.

Mr Johnson wants to double the number of shared ownership units built in London by 2020 and again by 2025 to help an estimated 250,000 more Londoners access affordable homes to rent or buy.

And he has welcomed confirmation by the Government of an £11 billion funding settlement, which will enable TfL to continue the modernisation of the capital's road, rail and cycling networks,

support thousands of jobs and new homes and promote economic growth across the entire UK.

The settlement will enable TfL to continue to deliver a capital investment programme of over £2 billion each year to improve and modernise London's transport network. Through continued efficiencies and greater commercial revenues TfL will cover all day-to-day running costs of the Tube by 2019 – the only major European city transport network not requiring Government subsidy to run a metro network.

Crossrail 2 – a major new railway serving London and the wider South East – received a boost in the Spending Review, as the Chancellor confirmed that it would be eligible for funding from a new £300 million Transport Development Fund for the next generation of transport infrastructure projects.

TfL has made a comprehensive business case submission to the Government for the development of the project. The mayor welcomed the Government's new fund and looks forward to a positive rec-

ommendation from the National Infrastructure Commission in March that Crossrail 2 should be taken forward.

Mr Johnson added: "The Spending Review is also a clear show of recognition by the Government of the importance of investment in our capital city. Commitments to transport and housing infrastructure will enable us to continue to deliver the improved services, jobs and homes the capital needs to help support economic growth across the whole country.

"I am pleased with the Chancellor's ongoing support for Crossrail 2 and look forward to a positive recommendation from the National Infrastructure Commission that this vital project should be taken forward."

Last week's settlement will enable TfL to continue to deliver the modernisation of the Tube, including completion of the Circle, District, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines by 2022 and the early stages of works on the Piccadilly, Central, Bakerloo and Waterloo & City lines.



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NEWS FROM HAMMERSMITH

LWN



■ **SUSPENDED ANIMATION:** A puppet show at Westfield children's attraction KidZania was suspended after it drew criticism from one concerned parent.

Children's show rejects 'racist bullying' criticism

A CHILDREN'S attraction criticised by a parent over an allegedly offensive puppet show has strongly denied claims that the performance "encourages racial bullying".

Pappi Ndelu took his eight-year-old daughter to the KidZania attraction at Westfield, Shepherd's Bush, but complained that a puppet show had featured a character called Shadow wearing a black sheet in the style of a Muslim hijab.

Mr Ndelu told the *London Evening Standard* the character was teased by other figures before being given a "makeover", after which he reappeared in white.

He said the show "reinforced a negative in young children against Muslim women" and added: "If they had told us what the context of the play was we would not have let our daughter take part."

KidZania suspended performances of the show last week so that the complaint could be fully investigated.

In a statement issued on Thursday it refuted allegations that the show was racially offensive and stressed that the content of its script was "well within our mission and guidelines".

The company also said the Shadow character's clothing was changed from black to pink, not black to white, and

that this was a "fashion/colour" reference.

It added: "The puppet is a puppet and in no way a piece of clothing or a hijab."

KidZania went on to stress that its staff had never previously received a formal complaint about the show and that it regretted to hear Mr Ndelu had been offended.

A spokesperson said: "It is the policy of KidZania London to take most seriously, and review immediately, any and all material and guest experiences and engagement throughout the city regarding any complaint received.

"We believe that the content falls

well within our mission and guidelines.

"Additionally, it should be noted that all the content and script is entirely pre-recorded. No child is required to speak their respective character parts within the performance given in the theatre."

The 75,000 sq ft attraction is described as a "child-size city where kids are in charge". Youngsters are invited to dress up as pilots, firefighters and singers in a range of fun role-playing scenarios.

KidZania's website says the attraction is designed to give children "the confidence to challenge themselves and inspire them to explore the world of opportunities".

Health bosses issue amnesty on antibiotics

LOCAL health chiefs are urging Hammersmith patients to surrender their unused or out of date antibiotics in an effort to slow down worrying rates of resistance to the drugs.

The 'antibiotic amnesty' is being held by the Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, which manages the Charing Cross and Hammersmith hospitals.

Experts say the specialist medicines, which are commonly used to treat a range of bacterial infections, are becoming less effective because of over-use.

Health bosses are now calling for patients to hand over any leftover antibiotic drugs to help prevent bacterial resistance.

Mark Gilchrist, consultant pharmacist at the Imperial Trust, said: "Antibiotics are a precious resource, the effectiveness of which are at risk from increasing resistance by bacteria, creating one of the most significant threats to patient safety in Europe.

"We can all help to reduce antibiotic resistance by only taking antibiotics when they are prescribed."

Mr Gilchrist warned that antibiotics should never be saved or shared with others, and issued a reminder that they cannot be used to treat common colds or sore throats.

He added: "By handing in unused or out of date antibiotics we can help stop their inappropriate use and slow down the development of antibiotic resistance."

People are being encouraged to hand in their unused antibiotics at any of the trust's Lloyds outpatient pharmacies by Friday December 4.

The amnesty is being run in conjunction with the National Institute for Health Research's health protection research unit at Imperial College London to tie in with World Antibiotics Awareness Week.

A spokesman for the NIHR said: "Antibiotic resistance is a real and growing public health concern in the UK and around the world.

"If we fail to tackle it, illnesses that were once easily treated with antibiotics will become fatal."

Business group says five-year vision will improve town centre

FROM PAGE 1

The BID has been working to improve the town centre for the last decade but must win the support of local businesses in an upcoming ballot to put into practice its latest plans.

BID director Patricia Bench said Hammersmith was set for continued expansion, creating a perfect opportunity for local businesses to benefit.

"Over the past 10 years we have witnessed Hammersmith transform into a flourishing destination with a prosperous high street, a thriving arts sector and a great selection of modern office space," she said.

"During that time the BID has worked to mirror the town's development by supplementing projects and services that would further enhance the town centre for the benefit of businesses, residents and visitors.

"As we look to the future Hammersmith is set to grow even more, with a number of upcoming projects, such as the redevelopment of the Town Hall and the gyratory, aimed at improving the

area even further. We would relish the opportunity for a third term to represent businesses as we work with partners such as Hammersmith and Fulham council, Transport for London and the Greater London Authority to make Hammersmith even more successful."

In recent years, money raised through the BID levy has been spent on Christmas lights, a summer festival event and a 'privilege' discount card to entice shoppers. Funds have also been put towards 'green' schemes and a free recycling service, as well as extra police patrols and a dedicated CCTV operator to improve town centre safety.

The BID's business plan for 2016-21 includes commitments to:

- expand the events programme
- promote new shopping habits
- embrace mobile technology
- improve the area's carbon footprint through 'green' projects and infrastructure
- ensure safety by working closely with local authorities
- promote corporate social responsibility by forging relationships between

businesses and charities. Michael Sloan, general manager at Novotel London West and BID representative, said: "Over our past 10-year track record, Hammersmith London has been a credible contributor to the success of the town centre, delivering many tangible results such as an increasingly expanding annual summer festival plus thousands of extra police hours, which has made a valuable contribution to driving down crime in Hammersmith and increasing the perception of safety.

"Looking forward, our focus for the third term will be to build on our legacy of delivering innovative projects and to take on board the change in consumer shopping habits, embrace mobile technology, respond positively to the demands to improve the town's carbon footprint, maintain the downward crime trends and expand programmes for businesses who want to engage more with local groups and charities."

Businesses will be balloted in February to determine whether they want Hammersmith London to implement its plan for the next five years.



■ **VISIONARY:** Patricia Bench.

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Abbey to lead nation's salute to the heroes of the Somme

WESTMINSTER Abbey will hold a national vigil at the Grave of the Unknown Warrior on Thursday, June 30 next year to mark the centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

The vigil will start with a 30-minute service in the evening and conclude with a dawn service on July 1. The abbey will be open to the public throughout the night as the vigil is kept.

The overnight event will be staged to remember those lost in the battle, which claimed over one million lives and affected the lives of millions at home, and to pray for peace. Those who took part on all sides of the battle will be represented by the groups of service personnel taking part in the watch.

Meanwhile, Westminster Abbey is embarking on an exciting new project to build a new museum and gallery – The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries – in the abbey's medieval triforium.

The gallery runs 70 feet above the abbey floor, and has

been hidden to the public for more than 700 years. The new galleries will give visitors magnificent views to the Palace of Westminster and into the church, displaying treasures and collections reflecting the abbey's rich and varied thousand-year history.

Elsewhere, the abbey introduced its membership scheme, the Westminster Abbey Association, on Monday, for those who would like to support the work of the abbey and receive unlimited entry during the year, invitations to an exclusive annual event and special offers.

As one of the finest medieval churches in England, at the heart of the nation for over a thousand years, the abbey tells the story of the people of the British Isles, their lives and their works and of the links they have established over the centuries with every part of the world.

The abbey has been the coronation church since 1066, and the setting for great events in the life of the nation, such as royal

weddings and royal funerals.

It is the burial place of kings and queens, and historic figures, from writers and musicians to politicians and scientists.

Westminster Abbey Association membership, which costs from £50 annually, provides the opportunity to become more closely associated with this glorious church and to help sustain and protect its rich heritage, whilst enjoying key benefits:

■ Membership pack, including tote bag and welcome booklet

■ Free and unlimited entry to the abbey for one year

■ Access to an annual exclusive association event

■ 10 per cent discount in the abbey shop and Cellarium Café

■ Priority notification about selected special services and events

■ The quarterly association newsletter

■ The Dean of Westminster's Christmas Letter – his personal review of the year

■ Ticket ballot for the abbey's Christmas services.

The Dean of Westminster, The Very Reverend Dr John Hall, said: "We are delighted to be launching the Westminster Abbey Association – our first membership scheme in a thousand years – and look forward to welcoming associates to the abbey."

Westminster Abbey Association membership can be purchased in person from Westminster Abbey at the north door of the church from now onwards.

Writing for the **London Weekly News** every week, London's most outspoken entrepreneur

Charlie Pipes Up!



Chancellor serves up a rewarding way forward

I'M not sure if the Chancellor is a *Great British Bake Off* fan or can whip a mean carrot cake in the kitchen, but when it comes to the economy he used all the ingredients at his disposal to create an Autumn Statement cake that will taste incredibly sweet for so many people.

For me, the Apprenticeship Levy was the icing and the cherry on top of that cake, which I'll come onto later, but what a cake we've all made since 2010!

We've seen Gross Domestic Product rise for 11 straight quarters that has been stable at 0.5 per cent or higher, including the half per cent growth between July and September, which was confirmed on Friday. As a result, the independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) is forecasting growth this year of 2.4 per cent and 2.3 per cent for 2016.

In addition, the deficit is 50 per cent down to £69.5 billion from 2010 and is forecast to go into surplus in 2019, which will be the first time since 2001.

These are great numbers, and maybe, as some say, the Chancellor has been lucky, but I've always found my luck tends to increase the harder I work, and I see in George Osborne a hard-working man, not a lucky gambler.

And he used the position he's guided the economy into, with the help of course of the army of businesses up and down the country, to rustle up a very impressive Autumn Statement.

It caught a lot of people off guard, particularly the shambles on the opposition benches, and contained some pretty positive announcements that will further improve our economic prospects.

Among the stand-out announcements was the plan to build 400,000 new affordable houses, which will create much-needed homes across the country but also create and support jobs in the construction-related industries.

This leads me on nicely to the Apprenticeship Levy – a plan right out of the top drawer that will make one of the most significant im-

provements in decades to the way we train young people.

The £3 billion project will be funded by a levy on businesses with a wage bill of £3 million a year or more and, if delivered correctly, will see the tables turned on the UK skills crisis.

Doomsayers from big business have been quick to say this 0.5 per cent levy will impact growth, but this is a sensible move that will benefit the entire UK economy through the creation of a workforce armed with practical skills that can be applied across all manner of industries.

This is not a 'tax and spend' political decision, it is a 'contribute and train' policy that will solve skills challenges, youth unemployment and make the country more competitive and more productive.

If this is done properly in 20 years' time we could be crediting the 'Osborne Apprentices' as a major contributor to our prosperity. There is, however, lots of work to do, the money must reach the employers who will take on the apprentices, and it must only go to those who are running genuine high quality apprenticeships.

Hopefully I'll hear some more about the Apprenticeship Levy today (Thursday) when Employment Minister Priti Patel pays Pimlico Plumbers HQ a visit. The Minister is our guest of honour at a meeting of the 5% Club, which is an organisation made up of businesses that have achieved, or aim to achieve the target of five per cent of their workforces consisting of apprentices. It will be a great opportunity to celebrate the announcement of the levy and to discuss how it will help businesses achieve, or even exceed, that five per cent threshold.

The result of the levy will be a great reward to the millions of UK businesses that have played a part in the economic recovery who will require future generations of skilled employees.

We must all keep up the good work because those numbers I mentioned earlier haven't just happened, they are the sum total of the work of millions of Brits, going to work every day and whose numbers are increasing every week.

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Candidate for mayor joins calls for action to ban sale of 'zombie knives'

BY GEOFF BAKER

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LONDON Mayor candidate Caroline Pidgeon is supporting a campaign for the Government to ban the sale of so-called Zombie Knives and other long-bladed lethal weapons which are openly on sale to teenagers in the capital.

All-party support for a crack-down on brutal blades has come following the discovery that the terrifying weapons – which include the Zombie Slasher with a 17-inch razor-sharp blade and the Zombie Skullsplitter throwing axe – can be easily bought because of a loophole in the law.

Although the New York-made weapons cannot be shipped directly to homes in London, they can be sold to UK dealers who are legally permitted to sell them on.

But now the capital's leading politicians want tough action on dangerous blades. Some 13 teenagers have been stabbed to death this year, 125 young people have died in knife attacks in the past decade and 9,700 stabbings have been recorded in the last three years as gangs increasingly arm themselves with deadly fighting tools.

During six grim weeks in London between March and May this year there were 1,600 victims of knife crime – a rate of 40 every day.

Last week two teenagers were rushed to hospital with stab wounds after a knife fight in Ladbroke Grove – which broke out in Golborne Road at 5.30 in the afternoon.

As knife violence spreads across London – with 93 per cent of schoolchildren warning pollsters that it is “a big problem” – city leaders are demanding that the Government starts a blitz on blades, with an immediate ban on Zombie Knives.

The Zombie range of weapons is manufactured by the KA-Bar knife company, based in New York. They are sold in the UK through various online companies – including Amazon and Hunters Knives & Swords.

Hunters market Zombie Knives through a fantasy promotion that critics say could easily fascinate impressionable youngsters and also be of significant interest to gang members who are increasingly arming themselves with more dangerous blades.

Hunters' promotion boasts: “The Zombie Apocalypse is here! Imagine waking up to the news that the zombie virus is spreading through Asia and heading fast toward the UK. Fear the walking dead! Nah [sic] it's time to get tooled up for some real Zombie Kick Ass!



■ SAFETY FEAR: Lib Dem Caroline Pidgeon wants a ban on the sale of Zombie Knives.

Thankfully at Hunters you'll find everything you need to survive and thrive in the zombie apocalypse. We have a great choice of zombie beating hardware including zombie knives and zombie machetes – everything you need to win Zombie Kill of the Week!

Among the wide variety of Zombie Knives on offer is the Zombie Slasher at £27.99. The machete, with a razor and serrated 17-inch blade, is said to be “a close up way of exterminating the walking dead”.

A Zombie Slasher hidden in bushes was recently found by police in Hackney. It is believed that it was concealed in the undergrowth by gang members.

Other Zombie weapons that knife-sellers claim are “all the tools you need to defend yourselves” include the Bone Crusher for £17.99 and the Skull Splitter throwing axe, available on Amazon for £8.

Reviewing the killer product, one parent wrote: “I bought this as a gift for my teenage son and he was floored by how sharp it is. It sliced through an inch piece of cardboard like it was butter.”

But now pressure is growing for a ban on importing the dangerous American blades.

London Assembly member Caroline Pidgeon, the Lib-Dem candidate in next year's election for a new Mayor of London, said: “I entirely support calls for the Government to institute a complete ban on the sale of Zombie knives and other long bladed weapons that have absolutely no place on our streets – or anywhere else for that matter.”

“The 1997 Knives Act prohibited the suggestive marketing of knives as suitable for combat, or likely to stimulate or encourage violent behaviour.

“This legislation must be fully enforced and strengthened to prevent the needless violence and tragic loss of life we are currently seeing.”

Last month Ms Pidgeon produced an in-depth report on

London's knife crime problem for the GLA, in which she called for better sharing of data on knife attacks, youth workers to be put in place to help victims in every hospital A&E and more funding from the Mayor's Office for blanket anti-blade education programmes in every school in the capital.

She said: “In the last decade 125 young people have been fatally stabbed on our streets, with hundreds more wounded. Yet this number doesn't paint the real picture, it's just a number. It can't show or represent the countless lives affected by these losses, victims' families and friends, perpetrators' families and friends. Lives forever scarred by senseless violence that must be stopped.

“This is a public health issue that needs addressing and needs addressing now before another life is lost on our streets. Our young people need to be educated and supported in putting down their knives and ending this cycle of violence.”

The anti-knives campaign is also being supported by Kensington MP Victoria Borwick.

She said: “I am deeply con-

cerned about the current spike in knife crime. At the Notting Hill Carnival this year, we saw 57 arrests for possession of a bladed weapon, compared to 23 last year. It is vital that the police continue to have the tools they need to keep Londoners safe, such as stop and search used sensitively. I support the Tory candidate for Mayor of London, Zac Goldsmith, in his determination to keep police numbers high, and a new focus on early intervention.”

Support for a crackdown on knives has come too from Labour's mayoral candidate Sadiq Khan. He said: “As the dad of two teenage girls, the recent rise in knife crime concerns me greatly.”

The Tooting MP added: “I have a real plan to tackle knife crime – based on my experience working with the victims of crime and the police as a lawyer and MP. If elected as Mayor, I'll introduce tougher and more effective sentences for those caught with knives, I'll stop shops selling knives to kids, properly map London's gangs and make our prevention programmes more effective.”

Caroline Pidgeon writes: In London during the six week General Election period, 26th March to 8th May, there were 789 victims of serious youth violence, 1,231 victims of knife crime and 441 victims of knife crime with injury. That's 40 a day.

Yet despite these figures the issue few politicians campaigned on the issue or wanted to talk about it.

I don't advocate a return to the crude and blanket use of stop and search that took place in the past, but I do strongly believe that targeted, properly carried out stop and search used in tandem with other operational tools, such as an increased use of knife arches and recorded weapons' sweeps could help take knives and offensive weapons off our streets.

The sharing of anonymous data collected from A&E departments can play a vital role in identifying knife crime hotspots and lead to far more effective policing. Only 30% of London A&Es currently use the model.

Knife crime is on the increase and we should be honest about that. If we have any concern at all for a whole generation of teenagers we should start taking practical action today.

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Fitness feat could be a sound move for charity

SIX trainers from Chelsea-based Matt Roberts Personal Training will be testing their own fitness levels rather than those of their celebrity clients as they take on a charity stair-climb up the 39 floors of the City of London's tallest building, Heron Tower.

Luke Weal, Ben Feinson, Ioanna Savva, Tony Adeyemi and Rob Aitken are competing against each other in the challenge to climb the 842 steps to the top of the tower on December 13 for Action on Hearing Loss, the national charity that supports the millions of people confronting deafness, tinnitus and hearing loss every day.

Personal trainer Ioanna, the only woman of the team of six, explained the benefit of stair-running: "Whilst traditional charity runs are of course great for your fitness, this test is particularly good for several parts of the body, including building strength, fat-burning – and especially if you are working for a good bum."

"Even if you are a runner, working out on the stairs means you use muscles which you usually would not put as much pressure on, ultimately making you a better runner. It is also really easy to introduce this sort of exercise into your daily routine to train for an event like this, by choosing to take the stairs rather than the lift when commuting to work every day and adding an incline to increase the gradient on your treadmill when working out in the gym."

"This is the first time I have personally taken on this sort of challenge and I know that the whole Matt Roberts team is really looking forward to it whilst also naturally getting very competitive. This is why I can't share too many fitness tips and give all the secrets away as I want to win!"

Ioanna and the rest of the Matt Roberts team are hoping to raise £1,200 for Action on Hearing Loss and to support the group's fundraising efforts, readers can visit their fundraising page at www.justgiving.com/mattrobertspt

For those wanting to race the team all the way to the top, there are still a number of places left. Visit actiononhearingloss.org.uk/skyrace or contact the events team on 020 7296 8172 or events@hearingloss.org.uk to sign up.

■ Action on Hearing Loss (formerly RNID) is the national charity helping people confronting deafness, tinnitus and hearing loss to live the life they choose. Action on Hearing Loss enables them to take control of their lives and remove the barriers in their way, giving people support and care, developing technology and treatments, and campaigning for equality.



■ UPWARDLY MOBILE: Personal trainer Ioanna Savva is part of a team taking on a charity stair-climb up the 39 floors of the City of London's tallest building, Heron Tower.

Capital treats in auction bids

MACMILLAN Cancer research is hosting a very special auction this Christmas – and for the first time ever, the prizes are being made available for everyone to bid on.

The charity is staging a celebrity stocking auction, which includes some amazing prizes from luxurious glamping getaways and enviable artwork to a drive in the film *Back to the Future*'s iconic car, the DeLorean DMC-12. Each stocking contains a 'money can't buy' experience personally donated by each celebrity, including afternoon tea with Joanna Lumley in an illustrious London restaurant, a tour around the James Bond Museum with Miss Moneypenny, Naomie Harris, or cocktails at Claridges with Jim Carter, Carson from *Downton Abbey*.

The silent auction culminates in one of the most glamorous social occasions of London's festive season, with this year's star studded event held at The Park Lane Hotel, London on Tuesday, December 8. The charity is hoping to raise over £200,000 to help ensure no one faces cancer alone.

Rose Wright, Macmillan Cancer Support's Special Events Manager said: "We're really excited to be launching the auction online this year. Now, everyone has the chance to take part and bid for these exclusive once-in-a-lifetime prizes, even if they can't join us for the live auction itself."

People will be able to bid for the celebrity prizes via the online auction until 4pm on December 8, when all bids will be transferred to the live auction being held that evening. For further information please visit www.macmillan.org.uk/stockingauction or call 0207 840 4800.

New art offers view of London

ARTIST Hugh Beattie has brought 30 new paintings to the Royal Opera Arcade gallery for an exhibition called *London Ancient & Modern*.

The works depict entirely new views of London's skyline and in particular the difference between the old stone architecture and the modern contemporary new glass structures.

Over 70 per cent of the City of London's buildings have been erected since the millennium; in Beattie's canvases, Early Medieval buildings share the cityscape with towering Modernist flats and our streets proudly display hundreds and even thousands of years of history.

The London-based artists gained inspiration for the exhibition from taking solitary early morning walks through the capital, seeking to discover hidden parts of London and investigate why monuments are so special and sometimes so vulnerable.

Beattie isolates clean crisp architectural features that at first glance may go unnoticed and asks the viewer to look at contemporary London afresh. A real lover of the city, his paintings are intended to provoke discussion on how is best to preserve some of our most historic edifices.

This exhibition is supported by author Alec Forshaw and The Royal Yeomanry and will be at the Royal Opera Arcade garden until Saturday, December 5.

Prices shoot up

GUNS made for royalty and nobility are to go under the hammer in Gavin Gardiner Ltd's sale of modern and vintage sporting guns and rifles which takes place on Tuesday, December 1, at Sotheby's in New Bond Street.

It is the only sale of sporting guns to be held in the heart of London's Mayfair.

Parents are London's driving force

MORE than half of people living in London (51 per cent) were given their first car by their parents, a figure that is nearly double the national average of 26 per cent, according to research from Experian.

It seems that Londoners' first cars are also coming in at a price with more than a third (38 per cent) driving a car worth between £8,001 and £11,000 as their first set of wheels.

This is over five times as many as the

national average, and up to 12 times more than many other UK regions.

London also deviates from national averages in the price of the car that they currently drive with 27 per cent of Londoners driving a car that costs £20,001 to £25,000; almost triple the national average at just 10 per cent.

The research also shows a national generation gap when it comes to car-buying habits, with older people more likely to use cash or savings – up to 70 per cent amongst those aged 61 and over.

Meanwhile, younger drivers appear to be taking advantage of affordable credit deals to skip a step, and move straight up to newer, more desirable models.

James Jones, head of consumer affairs at Experian, commented: "With Londoners opting for more expensive vehicles, it's important that anyone planning to use credit to fund the purchase first takes steps to make sure their credit rating is as strong as possible."

"With credit being offered at some of

the cheapest rates seen for decades, a strong credit rating will help them get access to the best deals they can afford, which could save them money in the long-run."

"We know buying a car can be confusing so we have launched a step-by-step guide available at www.experian.co.uk/improve."

Mr Jones added: "This aims to help people navigate the car-buying process and understand the best option for them to suit their circumstances and credit history."



■ JOY OF SONG: Irene Lyford, left, and Sarah Clarke from the Sing to Live, Live to Sing project.

Singers celebrate Christmas and prove the benefit of song

THE Victoria and Albert Museum's Christmas season will get a musical boost on Saturday, December 12 when 50 singers from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's *Sing to Live, Live to Sing* programme stage a festive concert to showcase their talents and demonstrate the health benefits of singing.

Seasonal favourites such as *While Shepherds Watched* and *Merry Christmas Everyone!* and golden oldies like *Dream a Little Dream of Me* and *Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay* are part of the concert, which is free to attend.

The *Sing to Live, Live to Sing* programme is a joint arts and public health initiative which promotes singing as a fun and healthy activity.

Experts agree that singing can not only help to improve breath-

ing, relieve stress, develop core muscles and improve posture – it can also boost confidence, encourage a feeling of belonging and improve people's overall mood.

To ensure that the audience gets the maximum benefit and enjoyment from the free concert the programme includes opportunities for everyone attending to join in and sing.

The show is free but tickets must be booked in advance. To do this you should visit the website www.vam.ac.uk/whatson/event/6075 or email Jennifer.wood@rbkc.gov.uk

Since the programme started in June 2014 more than one hundred residents have taken part in weekly workshops, which are led by enthusiastic trained singing tutors.

Participants who were interviewed before and after completing these workshops reported an increase in their wellbeing, including feeling calmer, feeling less stressed and feeling more confident.

Also, those suffering from physical illness, such as chronic pain or breathing problems, reported some alleviation of symptoms.

Participants were surveyed using the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing scale. The model is used to enable the monitoring of mental wellbeing in the general population.

Participants who were interviewed reported a statistically significant average increase in their wellbeing of eight points on the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing scale.

Body cameras to help police focus on cutting crime

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

SMILE, you're on copper camera – London Mayor Boris Johnson and Met chief Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe have confirmed the go-ahead for all frontline police officers to wear video cameras.

A three-year contract to provide 22,000 body worn video devices across the Met has now been awarded, with the first deliveries due early next year.

The move follows the world's largest trial of the cameras, across ten London boroughs over 12 months.

In a new report by the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime and the College of Policing, the use of the cameras has been welcomed by Londoners and found to reduce some types of complaints and allegations against police officers.

Following the success of the trial, the new cameras will be rolled out to the majority of uniformed officers by spring 2016, and are being funded through the sale of underused police buildings.

Once rolled out, the cameras will be in use by more officers in a single city than anywhere else in the world to date.



■ BACKING: Met chief Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe.

The new report suggests that the benefits of the body worn video cameras could grow as their use is expanded, and 92 per cent of the public questioned about the cameras agreed that they improve police accountability.

The cameras were found to help collect evidence and officers reported it resolved issues sooner. They did not alter the quality of policing and offered officers greater confidence if challenged, as well as footage to support their decision-making for example during stop and search and in domestic abuse cases.

The Mayor said: "This is a huge step forward in bringing London's police force into the 21st century, by reinvesting money from the sale of old and

underused buildings.

"Already these confidence boosting cameras have helped reduce complaints and make our officers more accountable. But it's clear our trial simply scratched the surface and, once rolled out, these cameras have massive potential to help our officers continue their great work in fighting crime and keeping our city safe."

Sir Bernard said: "I'm delighted that we will be able to press ahead with Body Worn Video. Soon, all our frontline officers will be able to make a record of the very challenging circumstances they are asked to deal with on a daily basis.

"It will also improve public scrutiny of how we carry out our role which is a vital part of being an accountable police officer. It is also an essential tool in gathering evidence of offences."

The new contract has been awarded to TASER, whose CEO Rick Smith said: "This technology is driving a global trend toward smarter, more transparent policing and we're thrilled to be partnering with one of the largest and most respected police forces in the world that is at the forefront of that trend."

Where To Find Your Local Favourite Free Newspaper

LONDON NEWS <small>WEEKLY</small> pick up points			
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Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9EQ
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF

Westminster & Pimlico NEWS <small>WEEKLY</small> pick up points			
Coach & Horses Pub	23 Greek Street	Soho	W1D 5DH
Pimlico Library	Lupus Street	Pimlico	SW1V 3EY

Kensington & Chelsea NEWS <small>WEEKLY</small> pick up points			
Kensington Central Library	Philmore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL

Fulham Chronicle <small>LONDON WEEKLY NEWS & CHRONICLE</small> pick up points			
Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road		SW6 5NX

Hammersmith CHRONICLE <small>LONDON WEEKLY NEWS & CHRONICLE</small> pick up points			
The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT

Cooks serve up help for ex-service people



Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Portobello & Golborne Market in Notting Hill
For full details go to the website

www.shoppportobello.co.uk
Supported by The Portobello & Golborne Management Committee

AT one end of the street is the Michel Roux Jr Cookery School at Cactus Kitchens, where top chefs teach students how to cook gourmet meals.

At the other is veterans' charity, the West Indian Association of Service Personnel. And although cookery school and charity are near neighbours in Clapham, their day-to-day activities seem worlds apart.

But in 2014 FareShare, the food waste pressure group, introduced the Michel Roux Jr Cookery School to WASP. Cookery school director Anna Ratcliffe hated seeing unused ingredients from cookery classes ending up in the bin.

She said: "Chefs hate waste. And one of the most important lessons our students learn is that the better and more confident cook you become the less likely you will be to waste food in your kitchen."

The school was put in touch with the charity after contacting FareShare. Now the school makes regular deliveries to WASP.

Ms Ratcliffe added: "We



■ **FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** WASP chaplain, Reverend Marcia Da Costa, collects surplus food after a day's cookery course from Steve Groves, (former Masterchef: The Professionals winner and Head Chef at Roux at Parliament Square) and the team after his Cooking the Roux Way class.

are delighted to have teamed up with WASP. If it wasn't for FareShare we would have never known the charity existed right on our doorstep. We've both benefited as a result of the partnership and are forging stronger ties with our local community as a result. It

feels really great!"

Steve Bowen of WASP said: "We are here to offer a helping hand to those who need it most."

The charity is a lifeline to the many ex-servicemen and women and their dependents, irrespective of colour, race or creed, strug-

gling to find their feet after a life in the armed forces. The charity provides an array of vital services, reaching out to the homeless, running food and clothing banks and serving meals to veterans several times a day.

Mr Bowen added: "The

food is never wasted. The greens and fresh produce from Cactus Kitchens always make a welcome and popular addition to our menu. And our housebound clients, often in poor health, really appreciate receiving a freshly cooked meal from us."

Howzat for a facelift? 'Stunning' plans for the home of cricket

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON Mayor Boris Johnson has been bowled over by "simply stunning" plans to redevelop Lord's Cricket Ground.

The mayor has endorsed the plans, which were approved by Westminster City Council planners, to develop the south-west side of the world-famous ground, which will see an increase of 1,082 seats, taking capacity up to 30,530.

The project will include a new Tavern Stand and Allen Stand, together with restaurant and conference facilities, as well as a rebuilt Thomas Lord building, Harris Garden building and alterations to the pavilion.

"The improvements are designed to deliver an improved spectator view of the cricket and accessibility, keeping Lord's at the forefront of hosting major international matches and tournaments," said the mayor's spokesman.

There will be a new venue for the Thomas Lord pub with access to the Harris garden and scorer's box and two extra dressing rooms, which will provide additional space for inter-

national teams and domestic teams during one-day and T20 tournaments.

The scoreboard is to be replaced and retractable seating will be provided above it forming part of a new 5,200-seat stand, which will also have two restaurants.

Plans for the ground in St John's Wood also include the demolition of the Allen Stand, which has stood since 1935 and the Tavern Stand, which has been in place since the mid-1960s.

Westminster council gave outline planning permission for the ground improvements last month and now the Mayor has given the seal of approval for what is the second phase of development at the home of cricket. In June 2014, the mayor gave the redevelopment of the Warner Stand the green light and work began on the 2,656-seater stand in September of this year.

The mayor said: "From WG Grace and Don Bradman through to Sir Ian Botham, Sachin Tendulkar, Shane Warne and our own Alastair Cook, the world's best cricketers have graced this most historic and picturesque of cricket grounds."

"The history of Lord's as the home of cricket must be re-

tained and safeguarded and critical to that is ensuring it remains competitive in terms of staging international matches.

"The new stands will combine the very best design and architecture with simply stunning views of wickets tumbling and the sound of bat on ball in our capital."

Derek Brewer, MCC Chief Executive & Secretary, said: "Following the consent given by the planning committee at Westminster City Council, MCC is delighted to have today received the mayor's endorsement for its South-Western Project plans at Lord's."

"The project is designed to ensure that Lord's provides the very best facilities for players and spectators alike, and that the ground remains truly world class in everything it has to offer. A five-year consent was submitted because the club awaits the England and Wales Cricket Board's decision – expected in 2017 – on the programme of international matches for 2019-2022. The mayor's approval means the club can conclude the legal procedures associated with the planning consent and look forward to making progress on these ambitious plans from autumn 2019 onwards."

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NEWS FROM KENSINGTON

LWN

UNDER THE WESTWAY

Creating space for local business to thrive

To mark the Portobello Green Designers late night shopping event Angela McConville, Westway Trust Chief Executive, celebrates entrepreneurship in North Kensington

ON Thursday 3rd December the Portobello Green Designers arcade is holding a late-night shopping event and this has led me to think about the importance of Westway Trust supporting local enterprise and entrepreneurship in the area.

Some of the businesses based in the arcade, which sits under the Westway where it crosses Portobello Road, such as Trapstar and What Katy Did, have used their roots in North Kensington to gain international renown and countless celebrity fans. Others, like the Chinese Tea Company and Sapelle provide distinctive and high quality products that reflect the huge diversity of our community. The late night shopping event runs until 9pm and as well as discounts in many of the stores there will be mulled wine, a gift wrapping service and a burlesque performance. I'd encourage anyone with gifts to buy to come and have a look.

Providing spaces for independent



■ LET'S DO BUSINESS: Enterprise and entrepreneurship are part of the vibrant heritage of North Kensington

businesses that reflect the creativity, heritage and diversity of North Kensington, like those in the arcade, is a significant aspect of what Westway Trust does. Enterprise is a fundamental part of the local economy where 13 per cent of people are self-employed, far higher than the national average. The area also has more very small businesses, employing less than five people, than in similar places. The enterprising nature of the community is demonstrated

superbly every week when hundreds of market stalls appear, selling everything from antiques to vintage clothing to jewellery to street food.

We've been working closely with the arcade shop-owners and the vintage market stallholders over the last few years to ensure the conditions under the Westway allow them to grow their business. More recently the arcade shop-owners and the vintage market stallholders have told us they want

some improvements, namely space for more shops and stalls, street frontage for the shops and a greater cultural offering, making the area one people will want to visit again and again.

The new plans reflect many of the needs of the arcade shop-owners and the vintage market stallholders: refurbishing the arcade and making the shops more accessible, and creating space for more small independent shops nearby. They tell us this approach will protect these independent businesses, making them more sustainable and resilient to the threat of chains.

The needs of the arcade shop-owners and the vintage market stallholders are not the only group we listen to. People have told us that the canopy over the vintage market is an important part of the local heritage and should remain, so we're working with stallholders to devise new plans that will keep it while giving them the extra weather protection and facilities that they need to make sure the market is still there in 15 years' time and beyond.

Of course, not every local business is a shop and the Westway estate already accommodates over 100 businesses ranging from music promoters and shop window designers to luxury

chocolate makers and bike repairs. Among those we've just welcomed to the estate are a furniture and fabrics retailer, a fashion outlet run by a young people's charity, workspaces for new artists, a forest school and an osteopath.

Supporting local enterprise is not just about providing space, but also skills. Earlier this year we supported the creation of 15 apprenticeships in local creative businesses. These first apprenticeships conclude in January and have given young people the opportunity to gain the skills to find or create jobs in the creative industries. I know at least one of the apprentices plans to start their own events management business and I hope we can support him with that. The Creative Employment programme will be expanding next year and we plan to support 22 new apprentices next year. Interested local people should get in touch with us through our website.

Enterprise and entrepreneurship are part of the vibrant heritage of North Kensington and by supporting them I hope Westway Trust can play a role in keeping the local community resilient to the challenges that face it over the coming years and a beacon for enterprise across London.

Young film makers look forward to red carpet treatment

STUDENTS from Fox and Bevington primary schools will be attending a sold-out screening of their dynamic new award-nominated documentary film *The Children Of Portobello and Golborne* at the iconic Electric Cinema.

After excitedly walking the red carpet, the students will watch the film, and munch on fresh fruit and vegetables from the markets while they get to see all their hard work come to life on the big screen.

The students will also participate in an on-stage question and answer session about their experiences and what they've learnt.

"We are very excited that our film is screening at the wonderful Electric Cinema for a truly local audience in the heart of Portobello."

"After years of making documentaries it was so refreshing to work with these children and share in their infectious enthusiasm as they met and interviewed the locals, finding out about the fascinating history and getting to taste all their delicious food – all of which is

now going to come to life on the big screen," said The Food Explorers co-director and film producer Alison Aylen.

She added: "The children were brilliant at bringing out the human side of the story and getting the locals to open up and share their experiences of life in Portobello and Golborne."

This film is part of a larger research project created by the Food Explorers in partnership with the Hammersmith and Fulham Urban Studies Centre (HFUSC). The film is set to run in schools throughout the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea over the next year to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Portobello and Golborne markets.

An interactive map, exhibition and historical guide all accompany the film and meet the criteria for the new primary curriculum.

This lighthearted film explores the vibrant multicultural community of the local RBKC markets while telling the story of the immigrant arrivals to the area over the last 150 years. As

the students search for the answers to their multitude of questions they experience the bustle of the market and its people first-hand.

The children discover how the Spanish community arrived after the Civil War with their olive oil, paella and chorizo, the Moroccans followed with their exotic spices and tagines and how the arrival of the Caribbean immigrants in the 1960s changed Portobello forever.

Through meeting these colourful local characters and devouring the multicultural food the students start to discover what makes Portobello and Golborne markets so unique. Local food businesses included in the film are: Jay Dee's Caribbean, Falafel King, La Plaza and La Bodega, George's Fisheries, Provenance Butchers and stall-holder Cheryl Devlin.

Funding for this film is provided by the Heritage Foundation with additional funding support by Camden Ward's City Living, Local Life & RBKC Markets.

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YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE

This monthly column is produced by Peter Faulkner of Who Can You Trust organisation and sponsored by Checkatrade.com Peter can be contacted on 07958-475392 or email peterfau67@gmail.com

Checkatrade.com

Christmas stocking killers

A month ago we warned you about the risks of buying counterfeit goods and how difficult it often is to tell the difference between the fake and the genuine article. This week, as many of you will be out Christmas shopping for your children and grandchildren, we issue a warning about fake toys that can maim and kill and how this time of the year is rich pickings for the criminals.

By Peter Faulkner

THE Christmas toy market is a multi-million pound bonanza for manufacturers and retailers, but it is also boom time for fakers, forgers and get-rich-quick criminals.

Britain's biggest toy sellers have announced that the top toys toddlers will be clamouring for this Christmas and predictably Frozen's Elsa, Thunderbirds, Minions, Peppa Pig, Barbie, hoverboards and Lego look like being must top of every child's wish list.

But that has also sparked a festive warning because typically this is the time of the year when families on a budget are looking for a bargain – and the local boot sale, pub and market is suddenly flooded with cheap counterfeits or dangerous toys.

Fake toys are already flooding the country and the local Arfur Daley is out to make a quick quid. He will even be on the internet trying to flog you cheap imitations unconcerned that he may be putting your child's life at risk.

Trading Standards across London – and even fire brigades in the capital – have already issued warnings about the hoverboards that became an instant hit when Marty McFly took to the skies in Back to the Future. But there will be few high flyers this Christmas.

Parents are being warned that these futuristic Christmas toys, banned on roads and pavements, are a danger to youngsters after reports that some have caught fire and even exploded whilst on charge and in use.



Fake Elsa and Anna Frozen dolls

The toys, also known as rideables or self-balancing scooters, can even come equipped with blue under-light, music players and bluetooth.

They retail between £300 and £600 from reputable stores, but some are being advertised for £100 or less on auction sites and social media.

Firefighters have warned the hugely popular device can blow up while charging because many of the imports come with a dangerous plug..

In one incident in Kent a hoverboard was left

charging in a kitchen, it caught fire 'like a bomb' and started a blaze that caused £250,000 worth of damage. Fortunately the residents escaped unhurt.

The message is simple. Beware of what you think is a bargain because you could be putting your child in danger by buying a fake toy where the pieces easily come off and can be swallowed by a child or they are made from flammable material and can quickly go up in flames.

Such toys were the fakes from the Disney film Frozen recently seized in raids across the country and they were found to contain high chemical levels that could damage the reproductive system and increase the risk of cancer or asthma if they are chewed by children.

Organisation like LACORS (Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services), which coordinates council trading standards services in Westminster, Hammersmith, Chelsea and other boroughs, said: "The fakes are often poorly made, don't carry the required CE safety mark, and can break easily posing a choking hazard.

"Sadly today's counterfeiters have no qualms about using their 'talents' to produce fakes that put our children's safety at risk.

"It's not just that the toys are not genuine, we currently have no knowledge of how safe they are. A number do not bear the CE mark which is the only way to be sure the toys have been tested against rigorous safety standards.

"We urge people to think carefully before buying cheap toys in the run up to Christmas as what might seem like a bargain may end up costing them and their children dear.

"There is only one winner when fake goods are bought and it's not the child who gets the latest toy or the parent who has saved money by buying the goods, it's the criminals who control this hugely profitable trade in fakes.

"Council trading standards are working with the police, customs and other partners across the country to make sure that when counterfeit goods are seized we can trace the source and take action against these unscrupulous criminals.

"In the meantime, anyone who has suspicions about counterfeiting in their area should contact their local trading standards department."

Danger bears: Trader fined



■ KEEN-eyed trading standards officers from Westminster helped trap a trader who was selling dangerous teddy bears to tourists at the Tower of London.

When they saw the teddies being sold by B&S Supplies, they alerted their colleagues at Tower Hamlets Trading Standards and the company ended up at Thames Magistrates Court where they were fined £16,000.

B&S Supplies, who were found to be importing hazardous bears for over a year, were fined £12,700 and its director was ordered to personally pay costs of a further £3,500.

The bears were classic London souvenir toys, dressed as Beefeaters, police officers and Tower of London guards.

It emerged that the bears' eyes were inadequately anchored and could be easily pulled off by small children, presenting a choking hazard.

B&S Souvenir Supplies Ltd claimed that the bears' Chinese manufacturer had informed them the bears were safety-compliant.

However the court ruled that B&S Souvenir Supplies Ltd and its director had failed to meet its responsibility to carry out its own tests on the products and were in breach of the Consumer Protection Act 1987.

Be prepared

■ A WORD of caution to residents in case they get a call from someone claiming to be from TalkTalk and trying to offer you compensation as an apology for the recent incident in which their web servers were hacked and clients personal details were stolen.

It is likely the caller will be a criminal trying to cash in on TalkTalk's misfortune and attempting to get hold of your personal details.

Ignore these calls because we have heard of many people losing thousands of pounds to this type of scam.



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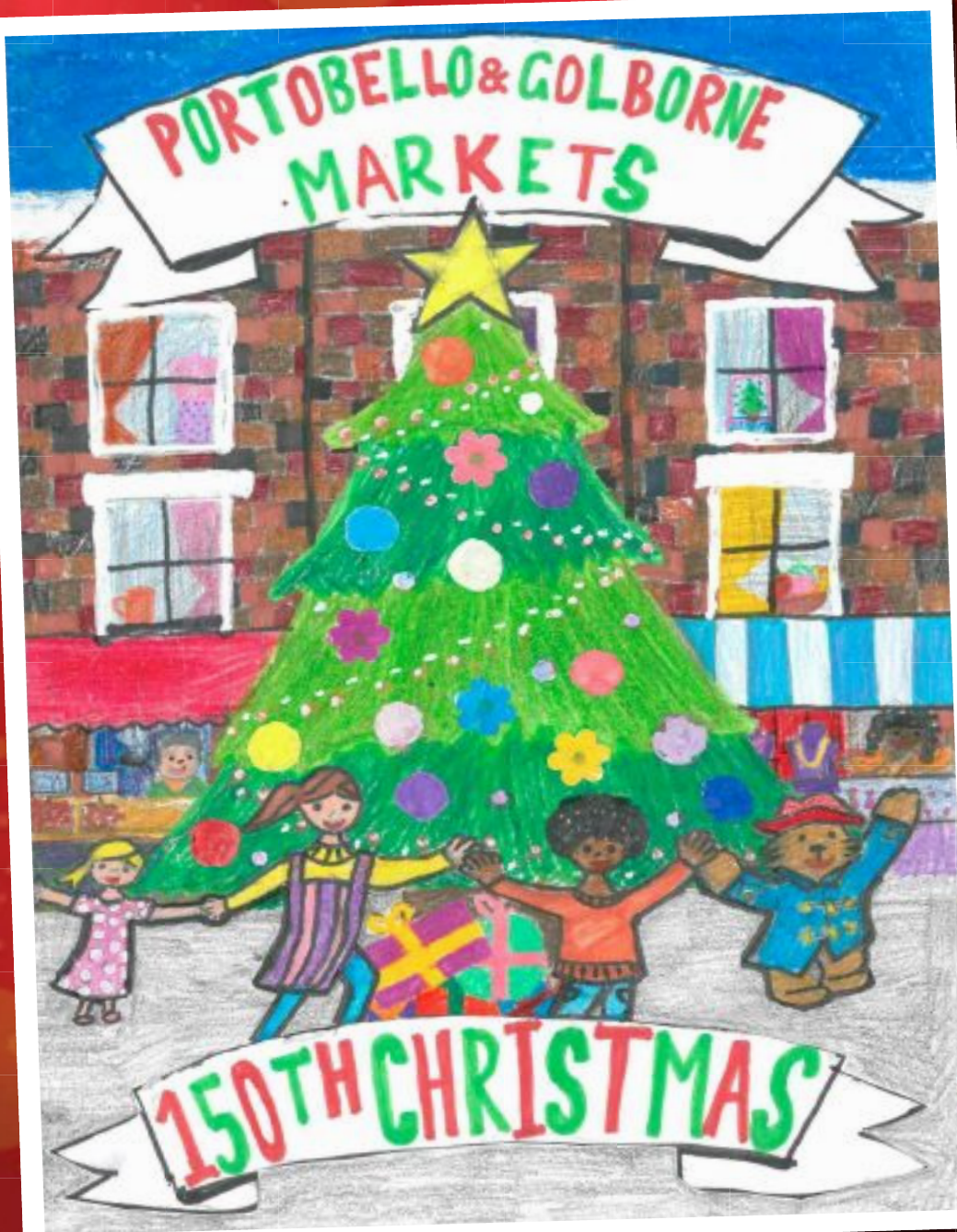
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The winning design from this year's Portobello and Golborne Market Christmas card art contest by Miki Keric, age 10 years old, St Barnabas and St Philip's Church of England Primary School

150 years of Christmas Crackers

From fruit and veg to fashion and from antiques to international street food – uncover some real gems at Portobello and Golborne Market this Christmas.

The market's 2015 Christmas decorations have been sponsored in part by Second Cup Coffee Company.

The market will be open as usual with the following exceptions:

Thursday 24 December	8am to 5pm (later closing)
Friday 25 December	Closed
Saturday 26 December	Closed
Monday 28 December	Closed
Thursday 31 December	8am to 5pm (later closing)
Friday 1 January 2016	Closed

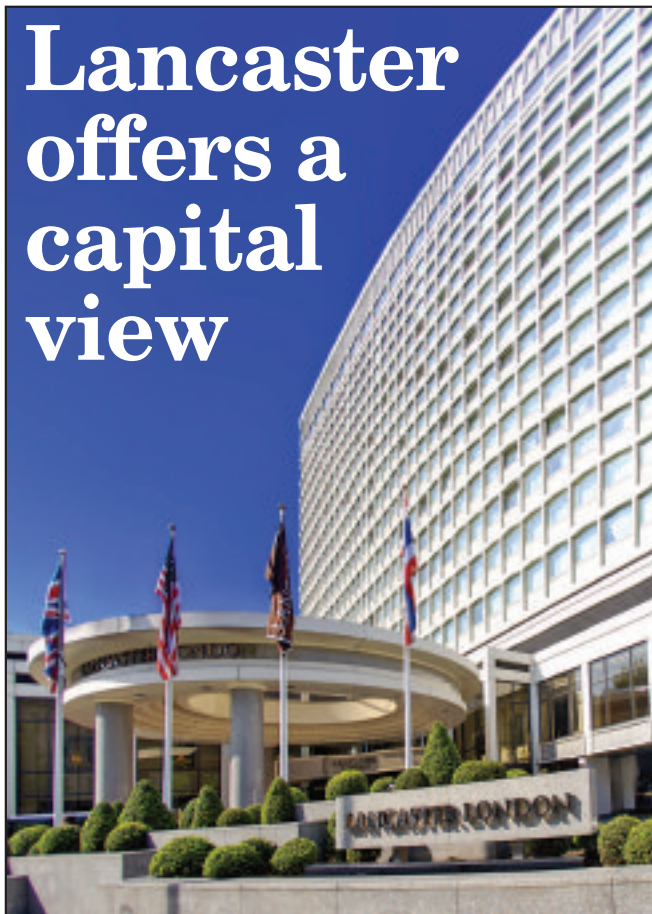


www.rbkc.gov.uk/ourmarkets



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Lancaster offers a capital view



If you're looking for a truly luxurious break in the centre of the city this Christmas, you'd be hard pushed to find somewhere more exquisite than the Lancaster London.

The hotel, which is set next to Hyde Park, provides everything you could possibly wish for from a relaxing and altogether indulgent retreat, which I discovered when I was invited to spend the night way up on the 18th floor, writes Nicky Sweetland.

My room was just along the corridor from the Presidential suite and boasted some of the most spectacular views of the capital. When I first entered the room I couldn't help but release a gasp at the simply breathtaking vista as I gazed out across Hyde Park and the evening city skyline.

The room itself was spacious and comfortable, with a contemporary design that gave it a very clean yet luxurious feel. I was also able to look down on the hotel's Beehives which are housed up and away from the city traffic on one of the lower level roofs. The hotel breeds the bees as part of both a conservation project and in order to use their fresh honey in the hotel's restaurant.

The highlight of my stay was when I was invited to dine in the Nipa Thai restaurant. The hotel is Thai owned and the restaurant has won awards from the Thai government for its authenticity.

Nipa Thai is one of an elite selection of Thai restaurants in the UK to have received the Thai Select award from the Thai Government for restaurants proven to have achieved the highest standards of quality and cuisine. To perfectly complement this, Nipa Thai has also received two AA rosettes for its precise, authentic cooking with incredible attention to detail. The restaurant also showcases original Thai artefacts within a beautifully panelled teak interior complete with luxurious Thai furnishings and has just the most warm and welcoming feel. My companion and I enjoyed an absolutely stunning three-course meal, which included some of the best cuisine I have ever sampled.

After a complimentary snack we started with Kai Krieb Pak Moh Steamed rice wrap with sautéed chicken, shallots, roasted peanuts, served with crisp lettuce, fresh chillies and coriander (£11).

The presentation of this dish is really something to behold, with vibrant colours which the excellent and knowledgeable staff informed us were achieved by using all natural ingredients. This was one of the best things I have ever tasted and I've found myself thinking about it on numerous occasions since.

The mixture of tastes was simply heavenly and my mouth is still watering just at the mere thought of this absolutely glorious dish.

My friend started with toong Ngern yang, which is a dish of crisp fried prawn dumplings served with homemade sauce – which was beautifully prepared (£12). As I have shellfish allergy I couldn't try this one, but I'm assured it was also divine.

We then shared the rest of our meal, choosing a traditional Kaeng Kiew Warn Kai, vibrant chicken and Thai aubergine in a spicy green coconut curry (£16) which we enjoyed with Kao Suay (£4), Thai jasmine rice.



■ BEE TEAM: The Lancaster has its own beehives.

This was wonderfully spicy and just what you would expect from a creamy coconut-y Thai curry. We also shared Pla Nueng Ma Nao, a steamed seabass dish served in a garlic, lemon grass, lime leaf and chilli broth (£22), rivalling the earlier Kai Krieb Pak Moh as one of the most delectable dishes I've ever had the privilege to enjoy.

For dessert we went for an ice cream tod – deep fried ice cream topped with honey and vanilla ice cream (crispy batter with a fresh and tangy taste) and a Pina Colada which is coconut milk panna cotta, marinated pineapple Carpaccio and tangy lime sauce (simply exquisite!)

The waitress also insisted we

try a portion of Kaow Niew Ma Moung, which is mango Sticky rice with coconut ice cream, which was also wonderful and with all deserts just £9, proved a very affordable finale to our meal. We were also treated to breakfast the next day, with the option of either full English, continental or Thai, all served in the hotel dining area with a beautiful open aspect across Hyde Park.

With Marble Arch and the plethora of Oxford Street shops just a five-minute stroll from the hotel and a gym which is open 24 hours a day, Lancaster London really does have everything and I'll be asking someone very nicely to take me back there for another visit soon!

Foragers feel the force

NEARLY 80 mushroom pickers in the Royal Parks have been issued with police warnings in the past five years, according to the latest statistics.

The findings, which also include two prosecutions in the past year, have been revealed as the parks warns about the damage caused by foraging for mushrooms.

With the wet and mild conditions continuing throughout this autumn, ecology experts are worried that eco-systems and food for wildlife is being stripped from the parks by those preparing special meals and dinner parties.

Autumn is a peak time for the growth of mushrooms, the visible part of fungi. During this time they produce and disperse spores to reproduce.

Julia Balfour, Head of Ecology for The Royal Parks said: "Picking the mushroom does not kill the fungus, but can hinder reproduction and therefore diminish

the population. Mushrooms are an important food source for many animals in our parks, and they are host to some rare species of invertebrates including those associated with ancient trees.

"They are also a beautiful addition to the landscape of the Royal Parks with 400 species of fungi in Richmond Park alone."

Fungi play a crucial role in the balance of the eco-system as they are natural decomposers. Fungi recycle vital nutrients from dead plants and make these available to living plants. This process is especially important in nutrient poor conditions such as those found in acid grassland.

Andy Overall from the London Fungus Group said: "Due to the natural and historic nature of the Royal Parks many rare and in some cases endangered species of fungi thrive among acid grasslands and ancient oaks."

"With the number of people foraging fungi in the Royal Parks thought to be on the rise, this will

no doubt have some impact on the fabric of the parks, be that an impact on the habitat, the other animals and insects that use the fungi, or our enjoyment of seeing the fruitbodies of some of the more spectacular fungi. Larger fungi are for all people to enjoy, not just the few."

Not only does foraging damage eco-systems and deprive animals of food, but it could also land a picker in court, as one 47-year-old found out last year when he was given a conditional discharge and fined for breaching The Royal Parks regulations in Richmond Park.

PC Paul Barber from the Royal Parks Operational Command Unit of the Metropolitan Police said: "We've noticed a steady rise in mushroom foraging over the years which could possibly be attributed to celebrity chefs' endorsement. In some cases, we've caught individuals with enough mushrooms to fill a small dustbin."

the Albany

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BY RAYMOND BRIGGS

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Kate's love cheers kids forced to live in care

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE Duchess of Cambridge's celebrated Kate Effect is having its most meaningful impact yet – helping to provide a loving haven for children living with loneliness, longing and heartbreak.

Ever since she first joined the royal circle, the Kate Effect has long been praised for the copycat influence she has had in boosting sales of everything from maternity dresses and coral-coloured jeans to jewellery and wedge-sole shoes.

The phenomenon has made the Duchess the darling of the fashion industry, for whom *Newsweek* has estimated that "the Kate Effect may be worth £1 billion".

But now her influence is being felt in an area that is infinitely more important than fashion – fostering children.

Fostering charities say the recent promotion that the Duchess gave to their crucial cause will benefit children in care who long for a foster family.

When the Duchess appeared at the Fostering Excellence Awards last month her visit sparked 343,000 news and web reports, generating unprecedented publicity for the fostering drive that will become all the more poignantly key as children face Christmas without a proper home.

The Fostering Network, which organised the event, said the huge spike in publicity is likely to have caused an increase in enquiries from potential foster carers and their president, Jim Bond, has praised the Duchess for "shining a light on fostering".

At present, more than 63,000 children are living with foster families in the UK and more than 8,000 children in Britain are in need of foster carers – 1,020 in London alone.

In the past five years the number of children in care has risen. Thousands of children who have been separated



■ RALLYING CALL: Kate is making a difference.

Queen calls on bishops to face 'difficult issues'

THE Queen issued a call for unity among Christians at the opening of the Church of England's national assembly last week.

She said the previous synod would be remembered for approving legislation to enable women to be bishops – a move which had long been disputed by many traditionalists.

The BBC reported: "The Queen's address comes at a difficult time for the Church, which faces a dispute over funding reforms."

She said members would have to "grapple with difficult issues".

The general synod, which governs the Church, passed new rules to allow women to become bishops in November last year. The development brought to an end centuries of male leadership of the Church and came 20 years after women first became priests.



■ UNITY: The Queen's message to the synod.

Some people within the church are against the change. They say tradition dictates that only men should hold the most senior positions.

The Queen, the supreme governor of the Church of England, said: "The last synod will be particularly remembered for the way in which it was able to approve the legislation to enable women to be consecrated as bishops. This new synod too will have to grapple with the difficult issues confronting our Church and world."

TURN TO PAGE 14

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ROYAL LONDON

Duchess a champion of fostering

FROM PAGE 13

from their parents and their brothers and sisters now need a foster family to give them the best chance of a happy childhood. By giving her support to foster children, their carers and the charities on which they depend, the Duchess is helping to brighten the future for so many in need.

The Duchess praised the charities involved in fostering for "the truly transformational care that is a lifeline to so many".

She added: "It was wonderful to meet so many remarkable and impressive people involved in the incredibly-important world of fostering". And on her website she applauded "every single foster carer, social worker, local authority fostering service, civil servant, politician, employer and organisation who has a passion for foster care and who puts the needs of children first."

Her support has also helped educate potential carers to the myths surrounding fostering. For instance:

- There is no legal minimum age to become a foster carer.
- There is also no official upper age limit on being a foster carer.
- Single people can foster as well as married or cohabiting couples.
- There are many gay and lesbian foster carers.
- Foster carers do not need to own their own home.
- People don't have to be parents to foster.

The Fostering Network says there are 10 skills necessary to become a foster carer: optimism, confidence, patience, stability, energy, sense of humour, being a team player and having listening, observational and communication skills.

The Government is also throwing its weight behind the new fostering drive and has recently increased allowances for

foster carers – which range from £142 per week for caring for a baby to £216 per week for giving a home to a teenager. Foster carers are also given substantial tax relief and greater allowances for those with special skills and those who make a large commitment to fostering.

The fostering campaign is also being backed by a number of high-profile stars who have spoken of the huge benefits that the second chance of a loving foster home can give to children.

Oscar-nominated actor Samantha Morton said: "As a foster child myself I would not be where I am today without the people that were kind enough to help and care for me when others were unable. Please, please consider fostering a child."

Hollywood actor Michael Sheen added: "Each day 55,000 unassuming families wake up, get dressed, and set about making life better for 63,000 children. They're the everyday heroes who are changing the world for the fostered children who are living with them."

"All children deserve a childhood. Foster carers give them the chance to experience this, and so much more. But this year alone we need over 8,000 more foster families so that we can make sure that every child can have loving and caring foster carers to meet each child's unique needs."

"All of society should be hugely ambitious for the 63,000

children living in foster care, so I hope this year you look into your heart and see whether you have the skills and qualities that foster carers need to change the lives of the children living in foster care."

And *Pop Idol* success Gareth Gates, the son of foster carers, said: "I know the real benefit that fostering can bring to children who can't live with their own family. It has always been a huge part of my family life, and I have been lucky enough to see many children grow into strong and independent young people. My parents have been fostering since I was a little boy, so as well as my three sisters, I have many more foster brothers and sisters."

"While it wasn't always easy, my parents provided love and stability to many less fortunate children and brought them into our family. I'd always want my family to give those children a chance if we had our time again."

"It's a huge decision and of course it isn't for everyone but it's incredibly rewarding. I know that it's not only changed the lives the kids who've spent some time in our family over the years but also mine and my sisters'."

Having foster parents has proved to have been key in the success stories of many top stars, including: Cher, Willie Nelson, Pierce Brosnan, Eddie Murphy and Neil Morrissey.

For more information on fostering, go to www.fostering.net



■ **WELCOME SUPPORTER:** The Duchess of Cambridge has helped stimulate increased interest in fostering.

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WHERE TO SEE A ROYAL THIS WEEK

FULL details of events in the ever-busy diaries of The Royal Family are available from the website www.royal.gov.uk but here's the London schedule for the week ahead

December 1st

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Patron, the Outward Bound Trust, will hold a dinner to launch the 75th Anniversary Appeal, at Buckingham Palace.

■ **The Earl of Wessex**, as Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will attend a Christmas Dinner at St Paul's Cathedral.

■ **The Duchess of Gloucester**, as Royal President, the Children's Society, will attend an Advent Service at Lambeth Palace.

■ **The Duchess of Gloucester**, as Patron, the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies will attend a Lecture at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace Road.

■ **Princess Alexandra**, as Royal Patron, will visit the offices of Alzheimer's Society, Devon House, St Katharine's Way E1.

December 2nd

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Patron, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will attend Receptions at St James's Palace for young people who have achieved the Gold Standard in the Award.

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh** will attend a reception and a screening of *The Great Reef* at Australia House, The Strand.

■ **The Earl of Wessex**, as Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will visit Channing School, The Bank, Highgate.

■ **The Earl and Countess of Wessex** will attend The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation World Fellowship Gala Dinner at Mansion House EC4.

■ **The Duchess of Gloucester**, as Honorary President, Lawn Tennis Association, in support of the Tennis Foundation will attend the Wheelchair Masters at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

■ **The Duchess of Gloucester**, as Royal Patron, Prostate Cancer UK, will attend a Carol Service at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge.

■ **The Duke of Kent**, as Honorary Liveryman, will attend The Worshipful Company of Clothworkers' Court and Livery Dinner at Clothworkers' Hall, Dunster Court, Mincing Lane EC3.

December 3rd

■ **The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh** will visit St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, London, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the current Church building.

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Colonel-in-Chief, The Rifles, will attend the Regimental Awards Dinner at Guildhall, Gresham Street, London, EC2.

■ **The Earl and Countess of Wessex** will attend the Not Forgotten Association Christmas Party at St James's Palace.

■ **The Earl of Wessex**, as

Royal Colonel, 2nd Battalion the Rifles, and **The Countess of Wessex**, Royal Colonel, 5th Battalion the Rifles, will attend the Regimental Awards Dinner at the Guildhall, Gresham Street EC2.

■ **The Duchess of Gloucester**, as Royal Colonel, 7th Battalion The Rifles, will attend the Regimental Awards Dinner at the Guildhall, Gresham Street EC2.

December 4th

■ **The Duke of Kent** will attend The Anthony Trollope Bicentenary Service at Westminster Abbey.

December 7th

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh** will attend a carol service in aid of Veterans Aid, at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks.

■ **The Duchess of Gloucester**, as Royal Patron, Missing People, will attend a carol service in St-Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square.

December 8th

■ **The Countess of Wessex**, as Grand President, St John Ambulance in the Priory of England and the Islands, will attend a Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas at The Priory Church followed by a reception at St John's Gate, St John's Lane, Clerkenwell.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Colonel, The Blues and Royals, will attend the Household Cavalry Foundation Carol Concert and Reception at Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks, Birdcage Walk SW1.

'The right scarf shows you are a refined person'

ROYAL LONDON

Her Majesty stays well ahead in the fashion race

BY GEOFF BAKER

geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE royal world's leading style icon has done it again – The Queen has put the silk square headscarf back in fashion.

Silk scarves, in particular the Hermès brand long favoured by Her Majesty, are said by fashion pundits to be heading the 'I want' lists of women of all generations for this Christmas.

The scarves, much-favoured in their day by other leading ladies including Grace Kelly, Audrey Hepburn, Jackie Onassis and Sophie Loren, fell out of fashion after the Fifties and Sixties when women wanted to let their hair down instead.

But The Queen has kept on with her trademark *carre* headwear, in which she was pictured for 17p postage stamps to mark her 60th birthday, and now fashion stars including Stella McCartney, Cara Delevigne, Katie Holmes and Kim Kardashian are tying themselves in knots to follow her lead as the scarf again becomes the must-have look for winter.

Paris-based Hermès, whose hand-painted silk squares cost upwards of £250, is reporting a boom in scarf sales and there's the same big demand for the classic designs at Liberty in London too. And in New York, the luxury store Nieman Marcus has all sold out of a scarf created by the late Alexander McQueen which was inspired by an image of the young Queen Elizabeth.

Such has been the surge of

popularity for the *carre* that Hermès now offers the Silk Knots app which teaches new buyers how to tie their scarf in imaginative ways.

"Wearing the right scarf in the right way will make you appear to be a refined person who has put thought into your outfit," said Mirella Zanatta, associate director at the brand consulting company Corporate Class Inc.

"If you see someone wearing a Hermès scarf, the implication is that they are successful because they wouldn't be able to buy it otherwise."

Robert Klara of Adweek says the quality of Hermès scarves, like those many in The Queen's collection, speaks for itself with the A-listers.

"With some squares priced over £1,500, this is one of the costliest pieces of silk one can buy – a fact that does not keep the things from floating off the shelf at a rate of two per minute," says Klara.

"What makes the Hermès scarf unique is the carefully orchestrated rarity of the product. Hermès works with a small coterie of artists to create about 20 new designs a year. A single pattern may take 18 months to reach stores, including the 750 hours required to engrave up to 43 silkscreens – one per colour – all applied by hand.

"What's more, unlike many brands that license their accessory lines to producers in China, Hermès is proudly, stubbornly French. Its team of seamstresses and silk printers in Lyon is told to take its time



■ **TOP CHOICE:** The Hermès brand of head scarf, as favoured by The Queen, is reported to be top of every discerning woman's Christmas gift list.

and do its best work. There are no production quotas.

"The result is a fashion accessory that comes with the one thing better than a head-turning price: a genuine mystique."

And nobody is more associated with that mystique than The Queen, who has been wearing Hermès and other designer scarves for decades and at every opportunity that does not demand a hat – including when out riding.

Although health and safety advisers have long called for horse riders to wear a crash helmet, Her Majesty has always preferred to tie on a scarf instead – with such complete continuity that in royal circles it is said that staff at Windsor Castle have reportedly joked that "the only thing that comes between the Queen and her heir is an Hermès scarf".

However, although the Parisian chic of Hermès scarves is now much sought-after again, for many of the seriously rich it is British

Oceanie, La Mer – which sold for £3 million at Christie's auction house four years ago, because it was designed by Matisse.

At the end of the Second World War, Ziska Ascher went to Paris and from a phone box in a café on the Champs-Élysée cold-called Matisse, Picasso and other leading artists to get them to create designs for his Artists' Squares project, to which Henry Moore, Cecil Beaton, Graham Sutherland and Barbara Hepworth also contributed.

"Not a few of these Ascher scarves will be framed upon walls a hundred years from now, for they are among the best and most characteristic products of our day," wrote Sacheverell Sitwell, an art critic of the time, and if you find one at Portobello Market or in granny's attic hang onto your hat with it for many Ascher scarves these days change hands for thousands of pounds.

The Ascher label was re-launched a few years ago by the founder's grandson Sam and original designs by Sutherland, Feliks Topolski and Gerald Wilde were reissued. Limited editions by Zao Wou-Ki, designer for the Ballet de Paris in 1953, are currently available on the new Ascher Squares website. Prices are by application only.

scarves that get the heads up, especially as investments.

Scarves made by the renowned Ascher London have become collectors' items, and none more so than one titled



■ **COVERED IN STYLE:** One of the multitude of designs that feature in the Hermès range so beloved of The Queen.

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Newsman reveals Las Vegas underbelly

SHOWBIZ SPECIAL

Sir Trevor's strip search

by Geoff Baker

THE Las Vegas Strip is the world's No 1 most-visited tourist destination, attracting 41 million visitors a year. It will be interesting to see whether its attraction slumps to that of a garden shed in North Korea once Sir Trevor McDonald has had a bash at it in his new travel show.

It will also be interesting to learn whether Sir Trevor is expecting to get many Christmas cards this year from the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors' Authority. Judging by the sounds of his two-part *Wish You Weren't Here?* in Sin City, one wouldn't imagine that he will be clearing much space for them on his mantelpiece.

Picking up the travel torch once legendarily lofted by the late Alan Whicker whom he so remarkably resembles, the veteran journalist and former *News At Ten* anchorman knocks seven bells out of Vegas with more bongs than Big Ben ever managed behind him in his ITN days.

One wonders what possessed the Visitors' Authority to allow him to film there in the first place. Did they not see his series *Inside Death Row* or its equally hard-hitting follow-up on the Mafia? Did they not realise that this was not some lightweight giggling halfwit from daytime TV? Did they think 'hey, it's only old Trev, he'll be good for drumming up business'?

Whatever the lack of Sin City's presence, one can be reasonably sure that at the next meeting of its chamber of commerce they will be playing pass the parcel with the accusation "whose damn idea was this?"

It's a rum place, Las Vegas. No, disappointed is a better word for it. Having worked there a lot, I cannot remember any time when its atmosphere of all-pervading Sodom and Gomorrah has left me feeling anything but a bit ill. Whilst most of the town's tourists – 96 per cent of them in fact – report that they were "very satisfied" with their trip, those of us who sense an undercurrent behind the gaming machines are left very uneasy.

Las Vegas With Trevor McDonald will do little to assuage our anxiety as he reveals a side of the place that is less one-armed bandit and more octopodal outlaw.

To be fair, Sin City is exactly what it claims to be on its tin; the leading resort of hedonism where anything goes so long as you have the dollars for it. Whether it was or wasn't, is or isn't, built with Mafia money my accountant has been too uncharacteristically nervous to investigate, but whoever did dream it up, it certainly wasn't God.

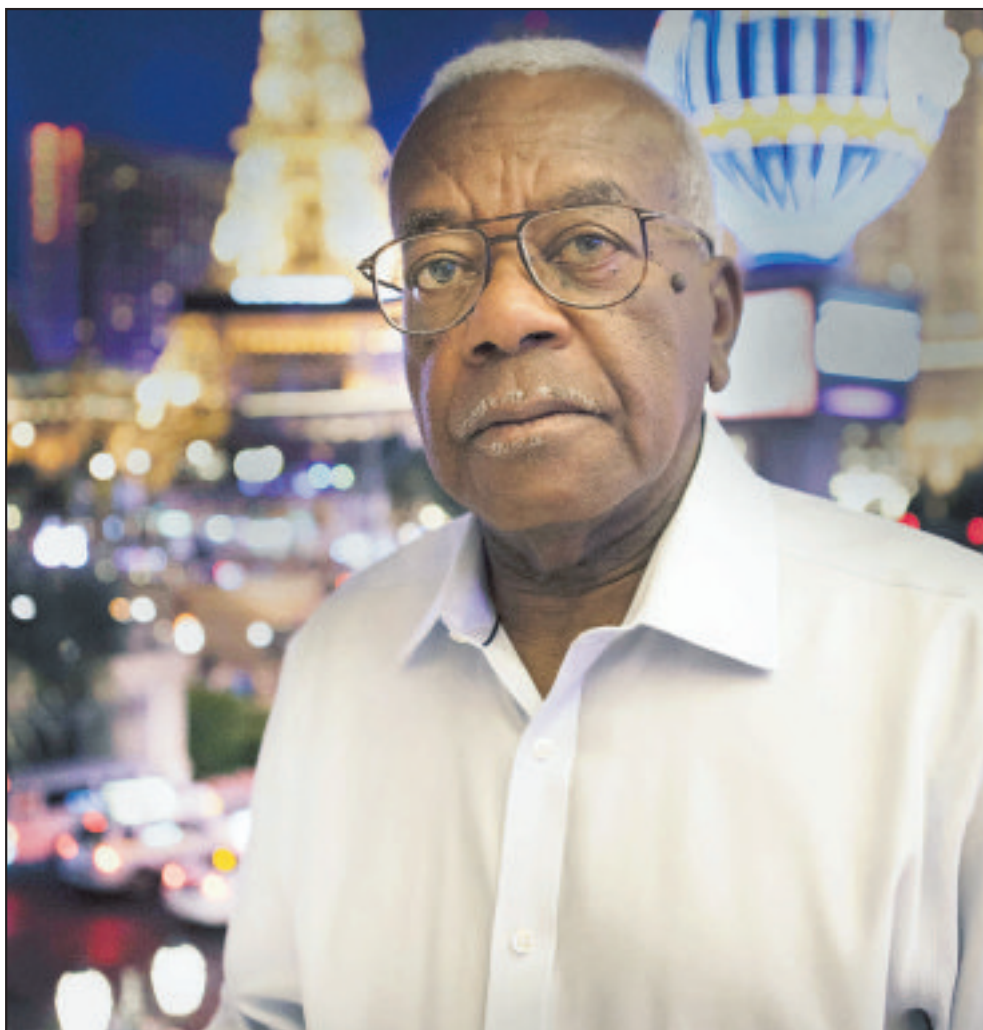
I remember the first time that I went there; I checked into my hotel room and, being a traditional member of Her Majesty's Press, spent the best part of half an hour looking for the mini-bar. Finally I gave up and called an American colleague down the corridor to enquire where they had hidden it.

"There isn't one," he said.

"Why not?"

"Because they don't want you drinking in your room, they want you downstairs drinking at the gaming tables."

On another visit I did find a mini-bar, but it had no alcohol in it. Instead



■ REVEALING: Sir Trevor McDonald gets beneath the skin of Las Vegas.

it was stacked with every conceivable type of Red Bull, Red Bull Plus, Red Bull Super Plus and all manner of stimulants designed to keep you wide awake... and so you may as well go downstairs to the gaming tables.

On another visit, I left my room on the 7,000th floor, stepped into the elevator and found it crammed with pneumatic, siliconed, trout-pouted young women in such a libidinous state of undress that it would have made Lady Gaga's stagegear look like a mother superior's habit.

"We're going to the MTV pool party," they squealed excitedly, "we want to be showgirls."

This is the public face of Vegas, the neon-lit image that five million delegates at 22,000 annual conventions send home on their postcards with the message that, honest, they've been working all the time and not in the slightest bit contributing to the \$6.4 billion that is raked in through gaming every year.

But this is soft Vegas, where the staff smell of talcum powder and, amazingly, where the massive shopping malls are lit with artificial daylight in an artificial sky with artificial clouds and sun, so that you imagine you're out and about and don't have to stray into that open air where you can't spend money.

This is not the side that Trevor Mc-

Donald went to investigate. Oh no, that's Dumbo's Disneyland compared to the mucky other side of the street which he reveals in his new series which starts on ITV on Monday.

"My previous experience was that it is a great entertainment city," says the man set to alter the adage 'what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas' to 'what happens in Vegas will now be exposed to the planet'.

"Some of the best shows in the world can be seen, in surroundings unequal to anything else in the world. The stages are bigger and everything has that American grandness."

"But people see Vegas in one way and in fact there is another side to it, what you see on the surface is not the only thing which exists."

As a for instance, there were 130 murders in Vegas last year, 60 per cent of them conducted with a gun. But then Nevada is an "open carry" state, which means that you can carry a loaded pistol on your hip down the Strip fully legally.

It also mean that, fully legally, you can pop into any of the many pawn shops that sell firearms made by 83 different manufacturers and pick up an Uzi or an AK-47 or an Armalite submachine gun or go the whole hog and have a belt-fed M1919 Browning machine gun, as popular in Vietnam, sent up to your room. Or, if you consider that a bit

risky with all of that Red Bull knocking about and making you edgy, why not opt for the Magnum stun gun that delivers 2.7 million volts, yours for the equivalent of just £26?

With that sort of weaponry openly available, it's not surprising that Sir Trev feels some sympathy for the Vegas bail bondsmen that he meets along with the pimps and the hookers in this, the prostitution capital of America.

"The bail bondsmen's is a necessary job I suppose, but it's also an indication of the sort of trouble that people get into in Vegas. In other words, not everybody goes there to watch the shows and goes home with their hands clean."

"There is a lot of trouble lurking in bits of Vegas and these bail bondsmen are people who intercede."

"It was also very interesting hearing the stories of Lisa Medford, who was a 1950s showgirl. She saw the two sides of the place. The entertainment was great and she saw Cary Grant, Harry Belafonte, Frank Sinatra and all those people. But she also knew about people being bumped off. She knew that a lot of violent things went on."

"The benefit of talking to her was that she knew about the other side of Vegas life. This is a place built by the Mob and you're not ever allowed to forget that."

It is also a place of dramatically-differing homes and Sir Trevor contrasts them when he visits the houses of former world champion boxer Mike Tyson and former world champion hooker Annie Lobert, who used to make \$2 million a year.

"Tyson is a fascinating guy, very controlled," says Sir Trevor.

"He was someone who became world champion at 20 or 21 in a big crew sport where the people around you are not always the nicest. He sank into a lot of trouble but he now claims he has remade his life."

"You would have thought that somebody with Mike Tyson's past would drift as far away from Vegas as is possible, you would have thought that the temptation is too great. But he says that his life has changed now and he has done everything that Vegas has to offer."

"But he was still very, very reserved talking about those things. This is all a dark shadow in the past for him and he wants to be seen in a different light. That's the person we saw, very careful about what he says."

"We got into his house, which was wonderful, but the access was fairly well contained."

In contrast to Tyson's luxury home is the safe house that Annie Lobert runs in Vegas for call girls attempting to escape from their pimps.

"I never expected this side of Vegas. But what it tells you quite openly is that there is a very harsh, brutal side to life in Las Vegas and sometimes the sort of entertainment that some people seek there damages other people's lives."

"Annie's house can take 20 to 30 girls at a time and she tries to rehabilitate their lives. They are secluded and I don't think the house is well known, but they still fear that people will come and try to harm the girls."

"It was really quite chilling hearing the stories of some of the girls. When I first turned up in Vegas 15 years ago that sort of stuff never occurred to me. So this was another hidden side of Vegas."

But although Vegas's much-promoted "what goes on" would be considered criminal in any other town, Sir Trevor warns visitors against any sort of thinking that you can get away with it if you step out of line.

"Vegas gives you the feeling that you can do whatever you like. But there really is no place on Earth where you can do whatever you like. There are always boundaries and there are always rules which you must obey."

"So the attraction and the curse of Vegas is that it gives you the idea that you can do whatever you like, but that's not true, you can't. And I think the theme of our film reminds you of that, there is no free for all. There is no place where you can get away with driving your car into another one, you will get into trouble and when you get into trouble the law will take its course."

"We talked to some policemen and they found that the most difficult thing – their job of law enforcement – conflicts with everyone else's view of Vegas. When you and I go to Vegas we don't think of the police. But Vegas gives you the idea that you can break the rules and some people do fall foul of that."

■ **Las Vegas With Trevor McDonald** ITV, 9.0 pm, Monday December 7

Authentic Sardinian food, Saporì Sardi is a fine Italian restaurant located in Fulham Road.

"simple, yet fantastico!"

Adrian Seal - Restaurant reviewer for getwestlondon

Saporì Sardi is a haven of authentic Sardinian food and carefully selected Italian wines. Saporì Sardi is owned and run by husband and wife team, Piero and Gul, who have created a warm and friendly atmosphere and have been known to sit and chat with their diners over a glass of Mirto at the end of a busy day!

Piero Taris (Owner & Chef) was born in Sardinia and arrived in London in 1986, aged 26 and full of enthusiasm and passion for the unique flavours of his homeland.



Piero uses authentic products imported from Sardinia together with fresh local produce to prepare a menu that is refined and innovative whilst maintaining the strict traditions of his distinctive region. He has been cooking since he was 11, learning to bake bread from his father, Giulio, who was a Master baker in the Italian army during the 2nd World War.

Piero began working in a kitchen at 16 and was Head Chef at the age of 21 at the renowned Torre del Corsari in Costa Verde. He has taught Italian Cuisine to chefs at some of the world's finest hotels including the Sberaton Group.



You'll find traditional Sardinian dishes such as Spaghetti Bottariga, Gnocchetti Campidanese and Gamberoni al limone.



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Monday - Closed
Tuesday - Wednesday 6pm - 10.30pm
Thursday - Sunday 12am - 2.30pm & 6pm - 10.30pm



saporì sardi

786 Fulham Road, Fulham, London SW6 5SL t: 020 7731 0755
info@saporisardi.co.uk
www.saporisardi.co.uk

WINE & DINE

The food and
drink page for
West London

by Gemma Dunn

TV presenter, restaurateur, bestselling chef and one-time *Strictly* semi-finalist, blue-eyed-boy James Martin certainly doesn't do things by halves – and the tradition continues with his latest cookery book, *Sweet*.

"Every single dessert was shot at my house, and made and plated by me," reveals the 43-year-old Yorkshireman. "My agent was shouting and screaming as they had to take three weeks off, but what with celebrating 20 years in the business, I knew we needed to do this."

Following on from 2007's hugely popular *Desserts*, *Sweet* looks set to re-establish Martin as the king of puddings, with over 70 recipes, from simple classic bakes and family favourites to lavish showstoppers and – wait for it – an all-important troubleshooting section (Hallelujah!).

"People always say, 'I do this but this always goes wrong', and the first thing I would say is buy quality ingredients. It can only be you or the ingredients that are the problem, so if it's the ingredients, change it."

The glossy shots in the book certainly look appealing.

"We used the same photographer this time around, a guy called Peter Cassidy who shoots everything pin-sharp, rather than all that modern, blurry b*****ks. If you're going to do a step-by-step, the reader has got to see what it looks like," states the chef.

With a culinary career that spans two decades, perfectionist Martin has a finger in many pies – but it was his stint on *Strictly Come Dancing* in 2005 that landed him his biggest gig to date, as host of BBC One's *Saturday Kitchen*.

And despite 10 years of 4am starts and 6am rehearsals ("I have a big can of Red Bull and two eye drops before I go live"), his passion for the weekend show remains.

"I love it and everything it represents. You're giving chefs that hardly ever cook on TV the opportunity to show their restaurant and



■ **SCRUMPTIOUS:** The Baked double chocolate pudding. Picture: Peter Cassidy



■ **FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Gemma Dunn meets James Martin.

Second helpings of just desserts

skill-set off. Their reputation is on the line, so it's a huge pressure for them. Me? I've got the best seat in the world, as I get to be a commis chef in the best restaurants in the world without having to go to them."

As for the pressure that comes with presenting, Martin is confident, yet unassuming.

"I would rather do live than pre-recorded, as live grabs you by the balls; there's nowhere to hide and I like that. I don't have any adrenaline – nothing. The buzz is the excitement of the show, or maybe it's the Red Bull that's kicking in..."

While Martin is happy to be ogled on screen, he's equally con-

tent cooking undercover in his popular restaurant, James Martin Manchester, and has no qualms admitting he would happily revert back to the role should his fame game be up tomorrow.

"The public will make its own decision, and that's it. If they stop watching me, I'm quite happy to go back home and carry on working, because I've had a whale of a time for the last 20 years."

"I feel very privileged to do it, but when your time's up, your time's up."

"Food has been at the start and it will be at the end – the bit in the middle is all fluffy clouds (tits and tinsels, we call it in the restaurant),

but it's all that fluffy stuff that people enjoy."

He insists he's not hugely ambitious, though.

"My glass has been full for quite a number of years and I'm very happy," he says. "I don't want to reach for a bigger one; I think you get to a certain age in life where you're content and it's a good place to be."

One thing that is growing, however, is Martin's car collection. A petrol head and keen flyer, he puts his love for the two down to "the release; the relaxation away from everybody else".

"I've had my pilot's licence for 10 years; I don't have my own plane yet – I'm not Jamie Oliver! But I love it. When you're on a plane, there's no phone, nothing. You're just concentrating on staying up in the air."

So would he like his pastime to traverse onto TV; perhaps a Flying With James spin-off?

"I keep getting asked to do stuff – photos at home, *Through The Keyhole* – but it's my house! When I do *Home Comforts* for BBC Two, I can control where they're filming and what they're looking at. As for everything else – why are chefs doing that? Just cook the bloody food!"

"You've got to have a distinction between work and your private life," he continues. "When I go home, the doors are shut and that's it. If you let those doors open to people then you're going to work harder, aren't you?"



MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Pork shank curry

Serves four

A FRIEND of mine recently described a chicken curry he had in Dalston that was cooked, or finished, with peanut butter.

I worked out from the way he described it what was involved. I had some mini pork shanks and pork osso bucco in my freezer from Donald Russell. Both worked really well with the spicy peanut sauce. You could use another single muscle like neck if you wish.

1.5kg pork shank, preferably cut on the bone

Flour for dusting

2-3tbsp vegetable or corn oil

4 cloves

1tsp coarsely ground black pepper

The seeds from 12 cardamom pods

1 black cardamom pod (optional)

A small piece of cinnamon or cassia stick

1tsp black or yellow mustard seeds

1tsp cumin seeds

2tsp ground cumin

1tsp fennel seeds

1tsp ground turmeric

2tsp fenugreek seeds

1tbsp ghee

4 onions, peeled and finely chopped

2-3 medium green chillies, sliced with stalk removed

6 cloves of garlic, peeled and finely grated or crushed

40g root ginger, scraped and finely grated

A good pinch of saffron

2tbsp fenugreek leaves

2tbsp curry leaves

1tbsp tomato purée

1 litre chicken stock; a good cube will do

3-4tbsp peanut butter

2-3tbsp chopped coriander leaves

To serve

3-4 large shallots, peeled, halved and thinly sliced

2-3tbsp salted peanuts

1tsp ground cumin

Season the pork and lightly dust with flour. Heat the oil in a frying pan and fry the pieces of pork for a few minutes, turning them regularly until nicely coloured. Meanwhile put all of the spices, except the saffron, fenugreek and curry leaves in a frying pan and heat them over a medium heat for about 3-4 minutes, turning them regularly with a spoon until they are lightly browned. Add the ghee, onions, chilli, ginger, saffron, fenugreek and curry leaves and continue cooking with a lid on for 4-5 minutes, stirring every so often. Now add the tomato purée and chicken stock, bring to the boil and simmer for 10 minutes.

Add the pork, bring to the boil and simmer gently for about 45 minutes, topping up with a little water if necessary. Take a ladle of the sauce and blend in a liquidiser until smooth and return to the pan with the peanut butter. While the curry is cooking, heat a tablespoon of oil in a frying pan and cook the shallots for 4-5 minutes on a medium heat, stirring regularly until they begin to go crisp and golden. Now add the peanuts and cumin and continue cooking until crisp but not dark. Transfer to a plate lined with kitchen paper.

To serve, add the coriander, simmer for a minute and transfer to a serving dish. Scatter the crispy shallots and peanuts on top.

This can be made a few days in advance, just leave the coriander – and the crispy shallots, which you can store in a sealed container – to the last minute.



■ **WARMING:** Pork shank curry.

Talk Of The Town

Music | Theatre | Reviews

ACTRESS Georgia May Foote, celebrity chef Ainsley Harriott and TV presenter Anita Rani are the latest celebrity contestants confirmed to compete in the 2016 *Strictly Come Dancing* UK tour, which come to the SSE Arena in Wembley, before culminating at The O2 in the capital on Valentine's Day.

Georgia, Ainsley and Anita will join Frankie Bridge from *The Saturdays*, the 2016 host of the tour, Mel Giedroyc, and judges Len Goodman, Craig Revel Horwood (who also directs the tour) and Bruno Tonioli for the 30-date live extravaganza.

They will be reunited with more celebrities and professional dancers from this year's ratings-winning BBC One TV series, who will take to the dance floor to recreate their dazzling moves and compete for votes from the judges. More names will be announced soon.

Georgia May Foote shot to national fame when she played the role of Katy Armstrong in ITV1's *Coronation Street* for five years from 2010 to 2015, although she had previously appeared in popular TV series including *Brookside*, *Grange Hill*, *Life On Mars*, *Emmerdale*, *Hearbeat*, *Doctors*, *Casualty* and *This Is England '86*.

Georgia said: "I am so excited to be part of the *Strictly Come Dancing* Live Tour. I've made some great friends on the TV show so I'm delighted to have the chance to perform with them again as we travel across the UK. I can't wait for January!"

Harriott is best known for appearing on many hit TV cookery shows such as *Ready, Steady, Cook*, *Can't Cook, Won't Cook*, *Ainsley's Meals In Minutes* and, in 2015, his latest series, *Ainsley Harriott's Street Food* and *Len & Ainsley's Big Food Adventure* (with *Strictly* judge Goodman). He has also presented *More Nosh*, *Less Dosh* on BBC Radio 5 and has sold over two million books worldwide as a bestselling cookery book author.



■ **STAR TURN:** Georgia May Foote.

He said: "I loved my time on the TV series and am now really looking forward to getting out on the road; it's going to be so exciting to feel the reaction when we step out onto those arena dance floors with all the other celebrity dancers and their professional partners. I've been known to do a bit of dancing around the kitchen and I'm

now thrilled to have the chance to dance in front of enormous audiences across the country."

The tour opens at the Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham on January 22 and will then visit the biggest entertainment venues across the UK.

For more details on the tour you could visit the website – strictlycomedancinglive.com

■ **THE** stage version of Raymond Briggs' heart-warming Christmas tale about Father Christmas is once again taking up residency this festive season in the studio at the Lyric Hammersmith.

The play has become a must-see Christmas show for families and is a great introductory theatre experience for young children.

Based on the Raymond Briggs' classic books which were made famous by the 1991 animated short, *Father Christmas* follows Santa as he awakes from a dream of sun, sea and sand only to find it is the busiest day of the year: Christmas Eve. This timeless festive story bursts into life with live music, playful puppets and a magical set.

Director Eva Sampson said: "It's your typical

Raymond Briggs. He's very grumpy and yet a charming and twinkly eyed Father Christmas. It's one for everyone."

The story explores what Father Christmas does with his time when he's not delivering presents on Christmas Eve. He tends to his pets and his garden and dreams of getting away on holiday to somewhere warm.

The magical story is back at the theatre for the fourth year in a row, with many audiences returning year after year to again experience the magic and to get them into the Christmas mood.

Father Christmas runs at the Lyric, Hammersmith until December 24. For more details visit the website lyric.co.uk

LEGENDARY movie composer Danny Elfman will premiere his latest composition at one of London's most iconic venues next month.

Elfman, who wrote the scores for *Edward Scissorhands*, *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and *Avengers: Age of Ultron* as well as *The Simpsons* and *Desperate Housewives* theme tunes, has created the new music for a special film-and-orchestra screening of Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland* on December 12.

The event at the Royal Albert Hall is the latest in the venue's film-and-orchestra strand, following sell-out screenings of *Titanic*, *Back to the Future* and *Lord of the Rings*.

Elfman said: "I felt that something big and dynamic deserved to play out the end of the concert so I wrote something completely new to play from the end of *Alice's Theme* to the very end of the credits. London will be the first time this will be performed."

The show will see the film accompanied live on stage by the



Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, the Maida Vale Singers and the Cardinal Vaughan School Schola Cantorum, all conducted by John Mauceri, and is being held to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Lewis Carroll's novel.

This dazzling update of the classic children's story features 19-year-old Alice (Mia Wasikowska) returning to the whimsical world she first entered as a child, and encountering the same vivid characters,

from the Mad Hatter (Johnny Depp) to the White Queen (Anne Hathaway), the Red Queen (Helena Bonham Carter) and the White Rabbit (Michael Sheen).

Lucy Noble, Director of Events at the Royal Albert Hall, said: "Danny Elfman shows have become a Christmas fixture at the hall over recent years: capturing the joy and magic of the season, and this will be no different: an exuberant, bewitching film, unforgettably accompanied by some of the finest musicians on the planet."

"We're ecstatic – and honoured – that Danny has created a new piece of music especially for the event, and we can't wait for audiences to experience it in the best way possible – played live on stage by a full orchestra."

The hall's 2016 programme includes film-and-live-orchestra presentations of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *ET* and *Gladiator*, as well as a new show celebrating music from classic westerns.

Tickets are available from royalalberthall.com or by calling 020 7589 8212.

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ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Talk Of The Town

london Listings



■ MEET YOUR FAVOURITES: Kerry Ellis and Barry the Penguin

Can Barry and Kerry save Christmas?

A WONDERFUL new children's story has been released in time for Christmas, and its star will be waddling along to the Theatre Cafe on Shaftesbury Avenue to meet his fans on December 12.

Barry the Penguin will visit the stagey little oasis along with some of his West End friends in the pre-Christmas hustle and bustle to sign some books and CDs as well as adding some cheer for the coffee supping visitors.

The book, named after its star, is an original story based on the stage musical by Lesley Ross and John-Victor. It's been adapted by Rachel Bellman and includes many of the songs from the stage musical. A host of West End performers stepped in to record the accompanying audio CD that also features narration by *Dr Who*'s Christopher Eccleston.

Barry is a penguin detective

with enough gumption to carry him from one end of the earth to the other and back again. When Father Christmas is kidnapped by the evil Bedbug Queen it looks like Christmas will be destroyed forever. Only the chosen one, a girl called Phoebe, can save him, but she hates Christmas... Will Barry convince her to help him? Will they reach Father Christmas before midnight strikes? Will they have the power to stop the evil Bedbug Queen? Eccleston hopes it will be made into a full stage show in the future.

He said: "This book is great fun, a mad and humorous adaptation of an original new musical. It has been an absolute pleasure to be part of this unique project and I look forward to seeing it all on the stage one day."

The book also includes beautiful illustrations by Matt Rowe with the soundtrack including

the voices of West End favourites Kerry Ellis, Gabriel Vick and Haydn Oakley who will be joining Barry when he visits everyone's favourite pre-show haunt on the 12th.

The Theatre Cafe has flourished since it opened in January, with a constant stream of stars gracing its tables. The cafe is festooned with memorabilia, and plays a continuous background of show tunes for its musical loving customers.

The book has been published in conjunction with Perfect Pitch, a not-for-profit theatre company supported by the Arts Council England, dedicated to creating new British Musicals.

■ Barry the Penguin, Kerry Ellis, Gabriel Vick and Haydn Oakley will be at the Theatre Cafe, 66 Shaftesbury Avenue on December 12 from 1pm. For more about the book visit pitchperfectmusicals.com

Billy Elliot at the Victoria Palace Theatre

To December 17
Billy Elliot is a funny, heart-warming and feel-good celebration of one young boy's dream in a gripping tale of triumph over adversity. This original story captured the hearts and minds of the world when the movie was released in October 2000. Nominated for three Oscars and 13 Bafta awards, this poignant film broke box office records across the world.

Elf the musical at the Dominion Theatre

To January 2
This year's festive must-see show is going to be this heart-warming extravaganza. The show, based on the 2003 film which starred Will Ferrell in the title role, was a smash hit on Broadway and is likely to be London's hottest ticket this season, despite the much reported high ticket prices. The show stars former Girls Aloud songstress Kimberley Walsh alongside West End heart throb Ben Forster, who will once again play the eponymous hero after wowing audiences last year in the role in both Plymouth and Dublin.

A Christmas Evening with Stoll Veterans

December 16
Christmas music and readings in aid of Stoll, a charity providing housing and other services to disabled and homeless ex-service personnel and other people with disabilities in London. Features the Band of the Honourable Artillery Company and the Choir of St Paul's Knightsbridge, and takes place at St Paul's Knightsbridge, Wilton Place, SW1X 8SH. Tickets £25. Children under 16 are admitted free. Price includes refreshments. Tickets: 08004118881 or www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2245852

Carols in Trafalgar Square

December 7 to 23
More than 50 carol groups each sing for an hour beneath the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square to raise funds for voluntary or charitable organisations. Resembling something of a winter wonderland with the world-famous Christmas tree in place (an annual gift from Norway since 1947), the scene is set for an atmospheric recital of classics. From Deck the Halls and Good King Wenceslas to Ding Dong Merrily on High and The Holly and the Ivy, various tuneless groups sing to raise much needed cash for charity.

The World Goes Pop at the Tate Modern

Until January 24, 2016
Over 200 works by artists from Latin America to Asia celebrates the many faces of pop art. This show isn't about the pop art you know, it's about the pop art that escaped the history books. And it certainly packs a punch. It's fun, engaging, colourful, revelatory, opinionated, racy and stunning. Most importantly the show illuminates how pop wasn't confined to Andy Warhol's Factory in New York or Richard Hamilton's studio in London – it was a phenomenon that reached much further, practiced by artists in Peru, Israel,

Argentina, Japan, Brazil and Eastern Europe. In an opening gallery painted scintillating red, the work quite literally pops off the walls. Here, traditional techniques are turned on their head, such as Japanese woodblock printing in Ushio Shinohara's 'Doll Festival', (1966) which is reinvigorated with the use of industrial materials like Perspex.

Walt Disney's Sleigh Bells at BFI Southbank

December 12
The world premiere of the new restoration of the Walt Disney film *Sleigh Bells* (1928), featuring the first-ever Disney character, Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, a long-eared precursor to Mickey Mouse, will take place at BFI Southbank on December 12 as part of a programme *It's A Disney Christmas: Seasonal Shorts*, screening other festive Disney gems from the 1930s to the present day.

Cats at the London Palladium

Until January 2
Enduringly popular musical *Cats* will play at the London Palladium for a strictly limited run until January 2 2016. Beverley Knight is Grizabella the Glamour Cat. For more details visit the website catsthemusical.com

Carols by Candlelight

December 2
St Paul's Church, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, Prostate Cancer UK's annual evening of carols, mince pies and mulled wine. Throughout the evening there will be readings from Dame Diana Rigg DBE, Larry Lamb, Patrick Robinson and Mark Lawrenson. Doors 7pm, concert 7.30pm. Tickets £25 and £15. Tickets available to buy online at prostatecanceruk.org/carols2015 or by telephone: 020 3310 7028

Through the Mill at London Theatre Workshop

To December 19
Through the Mill – a new play by Ray Rackham featuring a hit list of Judy Garland's greatest standards will get its world premiere in a three-week season at London Theatre Workshop from Tuesday, December 1 to Saturday, December 19. For more details visit their website londontheatreworkshop.com

British Museum of Food

To January 23
Located in a building at Borough Market across two floors.

Winterville 2015

To December 23
Winterville returns to Victoria Park, East London with another packed programme of attractions, entertainment and food and drink. Built around the Winterville clock tower, this little festive town offers seasonal classics and dazzling alternatives for all ages. Entry to Winterville is free, but most events and activities require a paid-for ticket.

Lorna excels despite personal trials

Lorna Luft at the Crazy Coqs

THERE'S no doubting Lorna Luft's celebrity pedigree.

As the daughter of Judy Garland and half sister of Liza Minelli, show business is very much in her blood and the singer has enjoyed a glittering career spanning over five decades, writes Nicky Sweetland.

This year Luft won rave reviews for her appearance in the spectacular *Judy Garland Song Book*, a show which charted her mother's life and music and which extensively toured the UK. Sadly, the tour was cut short when Luft was re-diagnosed with breast cancer and had to return to the US for emergency treatment.

Just 13 weeks later, however, the entertainer once again took to the stage in a week long residency at the Crazy Coqs cabaret club in Soho and I was lucky enough to be invited to attend her first show.

I was in good company, sharing the lounge with many of the star's showbiz friends who were there to support her return to work, including Queen legend Brian May with his wife Anita Dobson and former



■ RAVE REVIEW: Lorna Luft.

Strictly Come Dancing judge Arlene Philips.

We were all treated to a wonderful evening of cabaret, with Luft singing many classics from her mother's back catalogue as well as belting out some wonderful medleys of showstopping standards. The real highlight was a collection of songs which

had all been originally cut from movies.

In the introduction the entertainer explained how after her more recent cancer treatment, she felt more affinity for things being cut out.

Her patter in between the songs was very funny but also very moving as she opened up and openly expressed her feelings about the trials of the last few months.

Nothing illustrated this more than her wonderful rendition of the song *Cock Eyed Optimist*, from Rogers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific*.

Other highlights included the uplifting *Happy Together* and the sultry *The Lady is a Tramp*, in which Luft really proved her calibre.

With some wonderful accompaniment from just a double bass and piano (played by her husband), the intimate space was filled with a real warmth and fervour.

This was just one of a whole host of star-studded events planned at the club over the next few months, and the Crazy Coqs has once again proved why it is still the premier cabaret venue in Central London.

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Talk Of The Town



■ STAR STUDDED: The cast of Cinderella, with Hayley Mills, centre.

Panto – it's like father, like son

THE most famous pantomime story of them all will arrive at the Richmond theatre this Christmas – with some very well known faces encouraging audiences to enjoy the legendary fable.

Golden Globe and BAFTA award winning British actress Hayley Mills will make her panto debut as the Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella*, alongside the nation's favourite dame, Matthew Kelly. Olivier winning Kelly will be joined by his son, actor Matthew Rixon, as the duo once again team up to reprise the roles of the Ugly Sisters after critical acclaim in *Cinderella* at Wimbledon last year, writes Nicky Sweetland.

I caught up with Matthew senior as he took a break from final rehearsals for the production, which opens on December 10.

He told me: "*Cinderella* is the best of all the pantomime titles because it's probably the best known. It's also the most glamorous, it's also the most heart warming and it's the most spectacular of all pantos to me. Playing ugly sisters, particularly with my son, is the best experience in the world and we play it as twins because we're absolutely identical. When we've got all our slap on and the wig and the big frocks, you cannot tell the difference between us."

With over 50 pantomimes

between them over the years, the pair are once again looking forward to reinforcing their very unique camaraderie as they play Rita and Cheryl, who together have the X factor.

Matthew said: "The sisters are quite different from playing the dame because they're bad and they're grotesque. They have to be bad but you've got to be able to love to hate them."

65-year-old Kelly is perhaps best known for his television work, in particular shows like *You Bet!* and *Stars in Their Eyes*, but was originally trained as an actor and won the coveted best actor Olivier Award in 2004 for his portrayal of Lennie in John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* at the Savoy Theatre.

Pantomime has been a big part of his career, and Matthew talked passionately about the importance of telling the story within the show, which for many, forms their first taste of live theatre.

"That's one of the things about panto, you've got to have a good strong moral story and you've got to tell the story before you do anything else. Before you put all the jokes on, before you put the silly frocks on, you've got to tell the story, that's the first and most important thing because in the end it is for children. The second thing is that you've got to have a show for everybody, so everybody comes out feeling satisfied and feeling uplifted."

The two Matthews are joined

by Hayley Mills, who is no stranger to the stage herself, but who at 69, has never appeared in pantomime until now. The star of Disney's 1961 classic movie *The Parent Trap* is donning a magic wand to play the wish-granting Fairy Godmother and Kelly is very impressed by her portrayal.

"Hayley Mills is one of the best fairy godmothers I've ever seen. She's so perfect for it."

The magical rags-to-riches story will feature sumptuous sets, gorgeous fairytale cos-

tumes, real Shetland ponies, fantastic song and dance numbers, magic and bags of audience participation.

Matthew added: "It's traditional, it's spectacular, it's for parents and children so nobody gets left out. It's got fantastic music, fantastic costumes – a wonderful company."

■ *Cinderella* runs at the Richmond Theatre from December 4 to January 10. For more information visit the website atgtickets.com



■ DOUBLE ACT: Matthew Kelly and son, Matthew Rixon, are the Ugly Sisters in Cinderella.

Penguins pick up a following

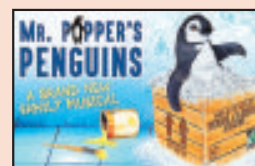
A NEW family musical will visit the beautiful Cadogan Hall in Sloane Terrace next week and for just four performances before it takes up its Christmas residency in Manchester.

Mr Popper's Penguins, based on the much loved children's book written by Richard and Florence Atwater, has been specially developed to enthral audiences this festive season with its magical story and lovable characters.

Painter and decorator by day, Mr Popper spends his time dreaming of Antarctic adventures. He is astounded when one day a packing crate arrives on his doorstep, out of which waddles a penguin.

The tale was made famous by the 2011 film of the same name which starred Jim Carey, and with a nationwide tour planned for the new year, The Pins and Needles theatre company look like they may have a hit on their hands. The Bristol-based company have previewed the show in Brighton before bringing it to Cadogan, and director Emma Earle is looking forward to audiences enjoying the brand new take on the classic story.

She said: "It's really a friendship



■ COOL: Penguins are the stars.

story between Mr Popper and this penguin. It's aimed at children aged three and upwards and families and we're telling it as a family musical."

The heart-warming tale offers an alternative to the regular Christmas show, with the story following the cute feathered creatures and their search for stardom in the hope that Mr Popper and his family can afford to keep them fed.

Emma added: "They trot down to a local theatre to do an audition in front of a producer called Mr Greenbaum. They do all sorts of vaudeville and circus tricks. We track the Penguins taking the world by storm and performing in different countries."

Although presented by a small company, Emma promises the production will be a musical spectacular, with puppetry and physical theatre helping to create a truly inspiring visual performance.

"Luke Bateman composed the music and Richy Hughes has written the lyrics. My company Pins and Needles have adapted it with those guys, so there's six songs and it's a proper musical. The Penguins are all puppets and we've got a cast of four exceptionally talented performers who are multi skilled so they are great musical theatre singers, but also puppeteers and very proficient story tellers."

■ *Mr Popper's Penguins* will play four performances at the Cadogan Hall, Sloane Terrace on December 4 and 5



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LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice of Application made under the Licensing Act 2003
NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT MR CIRO GUERRA has applied to the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham for a Premises Licence/Variation of a Premises Licence/Club Premises Certificate/Variation of a Club Premises Certificate/Provisional Statement for the premises at 1a Eyot Gardens, W6 9TH known as DELI MARI for the following licensable activities to be carried on, on or off the premises: Sale by Retail of Alcohol on and off the premises Monday to Friday 10:00 hours to 22:30 hours and exhibition on film indoor and outdoor.

Anyone wishing to make a representation about this application must give notice in writing specifying the grounds of representation to FAO: London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Licensing Team, PO Box 66532, London W8 9GJ or licensing@lbhf.gov.uk to be received by 16th December 2015 (not to be less than 28 days from date application received by Licensing Authority).

A record of the application may be inspected at www.lbhf.gov.uk/licensing or by appointment (020 8753 1081) LBHF, Environment Department Reception, 1st Floor, Town Hall Extension, King Street, Hammersmith, London W6 9JU.

Persons making representations will be invited to attend a public hearing before a Licensing Sub-Committee of the Council. It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to Level 5 on the standard scale under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application.

MIRKO HOLBUS
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 73 Njegoševa, Belgrade Vracar, SERBIA, who died on 15/01/2015, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 10/02/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Mishcon De Reya LLP, Africa House, 70 Kingsway, London WC2B 6AH. Ref: AFG/SC/45613.3

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NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT DMDB Limited has applied to Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on 23 November 2015 for the grant of a premises licence to use the premises at **mamma anna & co, 61 Ledbury Road, London, W11 2AA** for the sale by retail of alcohol from 10:00 to 23:00 Monday to Sunday, as more particularly set out in the application. Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing to: **Licensing Authority, Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, 37 Pembroke Road, London, W8 6PW** to be received by no later than 21 December 2015 stating the grounds for making said representation.

A record of the application can be inspected on the Council's website www.rbkc.gov.uk, or at the above address during office hours.

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (as amended)

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
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NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 15 (3) OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
ACCOMPANIED BY ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

I give notice that **Fordstam Limited** is applying to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham for planning permission to carry out the following development:
Address: Stamford Bridge Grounds, Fulham Road, London SW6 1HS
Application Number: 2015/05050/FUL

Description of Development: Demolition of existing stadium and buildings within Stamford Bridge Grounds and construction of a new 60,000 capacity football stadium (Class D2) with ancillary stadium-related uses including Club shop, kiosks and museum; restaurant/café (Class A3); together with the construction of a decking platform over the District Line railway to the north-west and a decking platform over the Southern mainline railway to the east; external concourse areas; associated excavation works; new pedestrian access from Fulham Broadway Station and Fulham Road; new vehicular access via Wandsworth Place; car parking; landscaping and related works. (The proposal is EIA development).

Notice is given because:

The application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

The proposed development is a major development.

The proposed development is within a conservation area and may affect its character or appearance.

The proposed development adjoins conservation areas and may affect their character or appearance.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should do so by 8th January 2016.

To view this planning application please visit: www.lbhf.gov.uk/stamfordbridgegrounds

The application is also available to view during normal office hours at the main reception, Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street W6 9JU.

If you wish to order a copy of the full Environmental Statement please contact the applicant's agent: Elizabeth Crump at AECOM, Elizabeth.Crump@aecom.com

A copy can be obtained at a charge of £170 (excludes VAT and postage).

Alternatively the Non-Technical Summary can be obtained as a hard copy for £20 (excludes VAT and postage). Electronic copies on CD or memory stick of the documents are available at a cost of £5 (excludes VAT and postage).

If you want to make a comment on this application please do it through our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/stamfordbridgegrounds or write to us at London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Planning & Growth Hammersmith Town Hall Extension, King Street, London W6 9JU. State clearly your full name, full postal address and the application reference number: 2015/05050/FUL. Please aim to do it before the consultation expiry date. After that date we cannot guarantee to take your comments into account when making a decision.

Signed: **Juliemma McLoughlin**

Director for Planning & Growth

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ACT 1990

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FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

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207 Dalling Road W6
2015/04951/ADV

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7 Shepherd's Bush Road W6
2015/05473/FUL

Change of use of the basement and ground floor from Class A2 (professional and financial services) and ancillary B1 (office) to a two bedroom self contained residential unit; replacement of existing door and windows to the Shepherd's Bush Road elevation; replacement of existing window and door on the Minford Gardens elevation with a new obscured window.

Tasso Baptist Church
138 Greyhound Road W6
2015/05227/ADV

Display of 2no internally illuminated digital screens to the front elevation.

100 Glenthorne Road W6
2015/05306/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension, involving an increase in the ridge height by 300mm; installation of three rooflights in the front roofspace.

29 Coniger Road SW6
2015/05264/FUL

Excavation of the front garden to form a lightwell in connection with the enlargement of the basement.

217 Askwed Road W12
2015/05380/FUL

Use of part of the flat roof at second floor level as a terrace; erection of a timber balustrade around the perimeter of the terrace.

19 St Olaf's Road SW6
2015/05295/FUL

Replacement of all existing sash windows and French doors with new timber sash double glazed windows and doors at ground floor level.

4 Cambridge Grove W6
2015/05104/FUL

Erection of an enlarged rear roof extension; Formation of a roof terrace at second floor level; erection of a part one, part two storey rear extension at ground and first floor level following the demolition of an existing single storey rear extension (Amended Description)

Ground And Lower Ground
Floor 6 Netherwood Road
W14 2015/04417/FUL

Change of use of the lower ground and upper ground floor level from educational training (Class D1) into 1 x two bedroom residential unit (Class C3); excavation of the front private pathway to form new lightwell including new metal railings at ground floor level; alterations to the front glazing to include installation of new windows; partial demolition of the rear external steps at lower ground floor level and replacement window on the rear elevation at ground floor level

Kona Kai 515 Fulham Road
SW6 2015/05485/ADV

Display of an externally illuminated advertisement banner measuring 7.3m (height) x 10m (width) x 1.25m (depth) onto the scaffold fronting Britannia Road elevation for a temporary period of 10 months.

22 Bradmore Park Road W6
2015/05488/FUL

Conversion of first and second floor level into 2 x two bedroom self-contained flats.

8 Aynhoe Road W14
2015/05492/FUL

Formation of new external steps with planters from basement to ground floor level at the front of the property.

2 Effie Place SW6
2015/05368/FUL

Formation of a roof terrace over main flat roof at roof level.

15 Miller's Court W4
2015/05408/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension following the removal of existing access gate to the side boundary wall; erection of wooden trellis on top of the existing side boundary wall.

25 Hilary Road W12
2015/05464/FUL

Erection of a single storey rear extension; and installation of 3no. rooflights in the rear roofspace.

41 Cromwell Grove W6
2015/05444/FUL

Erection of a rear and side dormer roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of the existing back addition; installation of a new window at second floor level to the side elevation; erection of a rear extension at upper ground floor level; increasing the height of the side boundary wall.

57 Lysia Street SW6
2015/05405/FUL

Excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the basement.

57 Lysia Street SW6
2015/05412/FUL

Erection of a front roof extension. **Corner Of South Black Lion Lane And Great West Road W6 2015/05403/FUL**

Erection of a new 15m high pole and installation of 4no cabinets with associated external works.

57 Basuto Road SW6
2015/05389/FUL

Excavation of part of the front garden to form a lightwell in connection with the enlargement of the basement.

Flat 9 Oxford House 70 - 72
Hammersmith Bridge Road
W6 2015/03727/FUL

Erection of 1.8m high timber fencing around the balcony area at third floor level following the removal of existing gates.

59 Napier Avenue SW6
2015/05428/FUL

Erection of a new brick boundary wall to replace the existing boundary wall to the southern and western elevation of the building.

71 Gowan Avenue SW6
2015/05432/FUL

Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 7no solar panels and 1no rooflight above the main flat roof at roof level; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofspace; replacement of existing windows with new windows at ground and first floor level, to the front and rear elevation; installation of new sliding doors to replace the existing doors at ground floor level to the rear elevation (revised description).

129 Hurlingham Road SW6
2015/05415/FUL

Erection of a part one, part two storey extension to the side of main building; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement; installation of French doors to replace existing window to the side of single storey back addition.

54 Ranelagh Gardens
Mansions Ranelagh Gardens
SW6 2015/05202/FUL

Replacement 3no. white aluminium windows to the front elevation with 3no. white UPVC windows; and replacement of 3no. white aluminium windows and 1no. white aluminium door to the rear elevation with 3no. white UPVC windows and 1no. white UPVC door.

63 Fabian Road SW6
2015/05122/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition.

407 - 411 New King's Road
SW6 2015/05406/ADV

Display of an internally illuminated free standing digital advertisement screen measuring 3m (height) x 6m (width) x 0.5m (depth) following the removal of 5no existing externally illuminated advertising screens fronting 407 - 411 New King's Road.

77 - 89 Glenthorne Road
London 2015/05297/ADV

Erection of a non-illuminated advertisement hoarding fronting Glenthorne Road elevation.

166 Goldhawk Road W12
2015/05458/FUL

Erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of the existing back addition in connection with the creation of 1 x two bedroom self-contained flat.

2 Vanston Place SW6
2015/05461/FUL

Erection of an extension at first floor level to house an internal dumb waiter.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA
CONSENT (DEMOLITION
WORK)
FOR LISTED BUILDING
CONSENT
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH
MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR
CONTEXT OF A LISTED
BUILDING7 Shepherd's Bush Road W6
2015/05473/FUL

Change of use of the basement and ground floor from Class A2 (professional and financial services) and ancillary B1 (office) to a two bedroom self contained residential unit; replacement of existing door and windows to the Shepherd's Bush Road elevation; replacement of existing window and door on the Minford Gardens elevation with a new obscured window.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **20th December 2015**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY
PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT
MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
ORDER 2013NOTICES UNDER REGULATION
1328 - 36 Glenthorne Road
W6 2015/05376/TPO

I give notice that Ms E Tang is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Fell to ground level of 1no. London Plane tree (Platanus x Hispanica) (T16) located on the footpath outside the front of the property, subject to Tree Preservation Order TPO/57/06/75.

Rear Of 83 Askwed Road
W12 2015/05236/FUL

I give notice that Teatam & Teatam Ltd is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Demolition of existing garage and erection of a part one and part two storey dwelling house at the rear of 83 Askwed Road.

Studio 4 58 Waldo Road
NW10 2015/05015/FUL

I give notice that Mr Thomas Bartlett is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Change of use from a live/work unit into a one bedroom self-contained residential dwelling (Use Class C3).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **20th December 2015**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services
on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.

You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk

You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office **RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6** between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT**

MANAGEMENT SERVICE

ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL

KING STREET W6 9JU by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly.

For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081** or **020 8753 1082**.

lbhf.gov.uk/planning

planning
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Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning

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2. 'Classified' Advertisers offering goods or service of a business, commercial or trade nature will, at the discretion of the Publishers, be deemed 'Trade Advertisers', and as such, must include their names in advertisements. A telephone number is an optional addition to these requirements and not an alternative.
3. To comply with the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977, Trade Advertisers must make it clear that they are selling goods in the course of business either by content, format, size or place of the advertisement or by including words such as 'trade', 'dealer', 'agent', 'wholesaler', 'T' etc. in the advertisement.
4. The Publishers accept no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage however caused arising out of:
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- (b) Any failure to publish an advertisement on the day / date or day / dates specified by the advertiser; or
- (c) Any delay in forwarding or omission to forward replies to box numbers to the Advertiser.
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6. Where shrinkage of advertisement occurs for whatever reasons the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre. This will NOT apply to the full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
7. The Publishers reserve the right to reject an advertisement or to vary it in any way they deem fit, at any time before publication, whether or not the advertisement has already been accepted for publication.
8. Whilst every effort is made to minimise errors in advertisements, mistakes do sometimes occur. Advertisers or their agents should therefore check their advertisements and inform us of any errors immediately. Responsibility cannot be accepted for more than one incorrect insertion. Typographical or minor changes, which do not affect the value of the advertisement, do not qualify for republication or allowances.
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10. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
11. Should the rate for advertisements be altered the price for remaining insertions shall be revised accordingly or the publishers shall have the right to cancel the unexpired portion of the order.
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13. Account facilities are granted at the discretion of the Company.
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16. All digital services are maintained in partnership with the publishers' hosting service providers. Every effort is made to ensure the continuity of these services, but some occasional technical downtime beyond the publishers control may occur. The publisher and its associated companies shall be under no liability if the production and distribution of web services is delayed or prevented by any cause beyond the control of the publisher.
17. The Publisher may provide voucher copies for published advertisements in electronic form only subject to certain criteria. Further information is available on request.
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LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

sport

Warnock could be Rangers' best option

AMID continuing speculation that Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink is set to leave Burton Albion and become the next manager through the well-oiled, ever revolving door at Queens Park Rangers, the club could do a lot worse than stick with Neil Warnock for the rest of this season.

Wolves boss Kenny Jackett has also reportedly been on R's radar as they seek a longer-term successor to Chris Ramsey.

But interim head coach Warnock, with Kevin Blackwell assisting, may be the west London club's best option given their current mid-table position.

English club, Hasselbaink would certainly represent a gamble at this level.

Relationship

Warnock, who turned 67 on Tuesday, is hardly the future and he may not be everyone's cup of tea. But he has a good relationship with the QPR crowd, who have faith in his management

the ingredients, if I'm honest.

"From an attacking point of view, we always looked a threat. We had lots of chances throughout the game, especially in the second half, and their keeper kept them in it.

"I thought the wide players and the two front lads gave us great options. I was pleased for Mikey (Petrasso, who was given his first start on his home debut).

"The two in centre midfield were brilliant for us. They worked together so well, and that gave us the platform to



LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW With Tony McDonald

The full-backs were solid and tight as well.

"It was a thoroughly strong all-round performance – all the ingredients came together for us."

Warnock admits that R's rely heavily on talisman Charlie Austin, who came off the bench to replace Petrasso in the 56th minute and scored the game's only goal with his first touch – Rangers' first goal in five games.

Only option

"Charlie is a goalscorer – he's always going to score goals," he told the official website, www.qpr.co.uk. "We're a few goals short if Charlie doesn't play but the medical guys told me he was only fit enough to play 30 minutes or so, so that was the only option we had."

Austin has been nursing a niggling calf problem, which needs to be resolved quickly if Rangers are to keep the top six in sight.

"I was delighted with the way him and Chery came on and gave us a lift," Warnock added.

The large following from Yorkshire enhanced a vibrant atmosphere. "I love Loftus Road when it's

full of oohs and aahs like that.

"The fans – both sets of them to be fair to Leeds – created a hell of an atmosphere in the second half.

"I was absolutely pumped up when we scored that winner – and at full-time. I enjoyed every minute of it."

It remains to be seen if Hasselbaink or any other new manager will be in the QPR dugout for tonight's (Thursday) match at Reading.

If not, Neil Warnock has shown that he is more than capable of managing this team in a league he knows better than most.

He said: "We're looking forward to the Reading game but I can't tell you what will happen before then.

"I've not been involved in the process and I'm sure when there's something to tell me the owners will do so. At the moment I'm just trying to get smiles on people's faces.

"The Championship is a unique league, unlike any other league, but I'm sure they'll have taken quite a lot of things into consideration when looking for someone."



■ SCOTT Parker back on the ball against Preston Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Parker returns

■ FULHAM continued from back page

"He's more defensive-minded and we were going to play Jamie O'Hara a bit higher up the pitch. We had to adjust by bringing Scott (Parker) back in. He'd been out for a few months, so that changed the dynamic of the team. I thought that told in the first half.

"To lose a goal from a set-play was a disappointing thing, as Mattila would have been marking the boy who scored. I was pleased to get in at 1-0, to be perfectly honest. We made adjustments and I have to give great credit to the boys in the second half. I thought there was only one team that was going to go on and win it and that was ourselves."

On his decision to change formation at half-time, Grant added: "I decided about 15 minutes in that I needed to change it. We knew we were lacking inches. We were a bit weak, so we had to adjust it at the break. Shaun Hutchinson came on and playing the three at the back really suited us. We hadn't worked on it, so great credit to them."

The switch allowed Ryan Fredericks to flourish in a rampaging role on the right, while Fulham had a couple of penalty appeals turned down before Ross McCormack again dug them out of a hole with his equaliser in the 77th minute.

"Preston were still a danger but it took a bit of magic from

McCormack," continued Grant.

"Ross' goal wasn't by luck, it's by design. He practices daily and diligently. It's no surprise that he's capable of that."

■ SCOTT Parker made his first appearance of the season following an ankle injury in Saturday's draw with Preston.

The 35-year-old midfielder and former England international made his comeback as a late replacement for the injured Sakari Mattila.

"I was delighted for Scott," said Grant. "He's been a magnificent help to me. That's why I took him with me last week to the MK Dons game. I thought he'd be important for me.

"I just said to him last week, 'you're doing your licenses and there's nothing like match day to come and see what it's like for real, because you can't learn that on a coaching course. So come and sit in the dressing room and on the bench and you'll see the difference'.

"His performance today at the last minute was excellent. I just had to take him off late in the game because, with tired legs, I didn't want him to get any other occurrences. I was chuffed for him and great credit for the way he looks after himself."

On Saturday, Whites travel to Nottingham Forest, who are currently two points and three places below them in 16th position.



■ CHARLIE Austin came off the bench to net the winner against Leeds

Warnock has been there, done that and got the Loftus Road t-shirt. He led them to promotion to the top flight during his previous spell in 2011 and has galvanised the side in recent weeks to the point where they are no longer leaking goals.

He could lead them upwards to the play-offs in the months ahead. He will at least prevent them from becoming embroiled in an unthinkable relegation battle.

To appoint a new manager now, getting on for halfway through a transitional season, could be risky if Ramsey's replacement doesn't hit the ground running.

And after little more than one season in charge of a lower league

style. The players are responding positively, too. The image of Sandro cuddling a delighted Warnock at the end of Saturday's home win over Leeds United spoke volumes.

Although he keeps saying he is only back in W12 in a short-term holding role while the club's hierarchy search for a new manager, Warnock seems to be warming to his task.

The 1-0 victory against Warnock's former club – cynically dubbed the 'asylum derby' by some who despair at the way both clubs are run – ended a run of four games without a win and reinforced his credentials.

His infectious enthusiasm came across when he said: "It had all

go forward at will at times. We gave Sandro a round of applause in the dressing room at full-time!

"Defensively, I thought our two central defenders were fantastic – that was as good a defensive performance you're likely to see from two Championship defenders.



■ SHOWING spirit: Cesc Fabregas, Eden Hazard and Branislav Ivanovic of Chelsea

■ CHELSEA continued from back page

"When I asked Diego to warm up, he did. But with the result at 0-0 and because we were dangerous, why change?

"I think Diego is very privileged, as he is the last person to be on the bench this season. The captain (John Terry) has been on the bench, Ivanovic on the bench. Gary Cahill, the vice-captain of England, has been on the bench . . . Fabregas, Pedro on the bench . . . Hazard, player of the season, was on the bench, Oscar . . . everyone has been on the bench.

"On Sunday, we thought that the best strategy was this one. We are happy with the decision.

"Physically, Diego is fine, he is working well every day, his mood is positive. I don't expect to have a player on the bench, jumping and singing, because he was not playing, unless you are a kid like Ruben Loftus-Cheek or Kenedy. They are on the bench and they feel it's one more step to the first team.

"But a top player going on the bench is not happy, so for me, it's normal. He was ready to play."

Speaking about Costa hurling the bib in the dugout and narrowly missing the back of the manager, Mourinho added: "If he wanted to hurt me, he does not need a bib. We have no problems

with our relationship.

"The message to every one of my players, not just Diego, but to all, is that when we play as a team and defend as a team, we are much better.

"The way we are playing now, I would not be surprised if we don't lose our next 10 matches."

When pressed as to what he wants from Costa, Mourinho refused to respond.

"Let's not talk about a player who did not play," he said. "Let's talk about Hazard. He had a fantastic match, he had a great header in the box, which should have been a goal. He got into a great position.

"In the second half, he had a great volley with his weaker foot and forced Lloris into the best save of the match. This was my striker. Eden was phenomenal. Diego was just on the bench."

Continuing his praise for Hazard, a player he has been quite happy to criticise in the recent past, Mourinho added: "This was Eden's best game of the season, more complete, in both directions – with the ball and without it.

"He attacked people with the ball, attacked space without the ball. His appetite to be important in the game and to enjoy it was back."

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Thursday, December 3

Reading v QPR, 8.00

Saturday, December 5

CHELSEA v AFC Bournemouth, 5.30

Nottingham Forest v FULHAM, 3.00

Wednesday, December 9

CHELSEA v FC Porto (UCL), 7.45

SPORT

Thursday, December 3rd, 2015

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

Blues are back on right track

STAND-IN captain Branislav Ivanovic, perhaps unsurprisingly, believes that Chelsea's ability to keep clean sheets is the backbone to their resurgence, which he hopes will propel them up the Premier League.

Sunday's 0-0 draw at fifth-placed, in-form Tottenham was the third game in a row in which the Blues have not conceded a goal.

Their 4-0 win in the Champions League against Maccabi Tel Aviv in Israel came on the back of a 1-0 victory against Norwich City.

Ivanovic, who skippered the side in the absence of injured John Terry, said: "I think this was a very difficult game for us, given our position. We went to Spurs and we wanted to show our character and how good we are, and improve our performances from game to game.

"We did that. We've got another clean sheet, which is very important for the confidence of defenders. We had a couple of chances where we could have scored

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

and with a little bit of luck, we could have won."

Chelsea moved up one place, to 14th, as a consequence of the point and Ivanovic is convinced that confidence is almost fully restored.

"It's starting to build, everyone can feel that," he said. "In the last couple of games we've had good results also. Even before that, when we lost a couple, we played well. I think the team spirit is back and we are all again on the right track and want to do everything to try and get points back."

Shock for all

The Serbia defender, who recently returned to the side following injury, continued: "None of us expected this start to the season, it was a shock for all of us. It's taken time to react to everything that's happened. I learnt a lot from that. I know where I made mistakes and I will do everything in the future not to repeat



■ IMPRESSIVE Eden Hazard's volley almost won it for Blues at Tottenham Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

them."

At White Hart Lane, Jose Mourinho opted to play without a recognised striker, dumping Diego Costa to the bench and giving Eden Hazard licence to get forward, something Ivanovic felt the Belgium midfielder did quite well.

"It was new for him in the team," he said. "It was difficult for me to see how he was playing, as I was concentrating on myself. He's done well and I think this is one more good side of us to be a team in every second of the game and Eden did that very well. I think, with a bit of luck, he'd have scored."

Chelsea went closest to grabbing the winner in north London in the second half, when Ivanovic sent over a pinpoint diagonal cross for Hazard whose dipping left-foot volley was brilliantly saved by Spurs' keeper Hugo Lloris.

So what did Ivanovic think of the demotion of Costa, who had scored Chelsea's winner in their previous home game?

"I expect Diego to come back strongly. We started the season as a team and we have to finish as a team. This is important. When we start losing, we all know



This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

it's not about one or two players playing badly or playing well. It's about the team.

"Diego didn't play against Spurs but I know he'll be ready for the next game. He scored against Norwich – the winning goal. It's all about the team in the moment. I think we all have to think about that.

"Sometimes, for a player who isn't playing it's difficult but it is a normal situation for the club."

Ivanovic won't be pinned down as to where the Blues will finish in the table. "I never talk about that," he said. "We didn't expect to be in this position at the moment but we are. We have to be realistic and go game by game to get the points. It's very difficult to say where we will finish, because this league is unpredictable."

Mourinho is cutting a much happier figure of late, perhaps in part due to better results to go along with improved performances. As he prepares his side for Saturday's home league encounter against AFC Bournemouth, he ruminates over Sunday's point.

"I'm well pleased, not because of the clean sheet," he said. "I think Tottenham deserve even more credit for keeping a clean sheet, as we were the more dangerous team.

"We had the best chances. Hugo Lloris was the goalkeeper who had more work to do and made the save of the game (from Hazard). It was difficult to play against them, they were aggressive and pressed and attacked. But with the ball, we were quite comfortable and we were waiting for our chances on the break, which we did very well."

Mourinho senses that better times are ahead and the next few games will see the side climb up the league table.

"After these past three games we can look towards December, where we have three matches at Stamford Bridge and two away against top teams in Leicester City and Manchester United, with enthusiasm. I am convinced that at the end of December we will be in a different position than we are now."

Inevitably, much media attention following Sunday's goal-less draw with Spurs focused on Diego Costa's mini tantrum. Realising after a touchline warm-up that he would not be called upon as a substitute, the controversial Spain striker removed his bib and tossed it over his shoulder in the direction of Mourinho, who had his back to the disgruntled No.19.

But the Portuguese boss, sensing that an obvious rift between the two was being played out in public, attempted to defuse the potential crisis.

"I was looking to win the game without Diego," he said matter of factly. "I was tempted not to change one player. I did the first change, as Willian was in a difficult situation. The last change for Pedro was a bit of the same but I was tempted not to change him, as we were dangerous."

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Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

Fulham search continues

MORE than three weeks after sacking Kit Symons, managerless Fulham seem no nearer finding a permanent replacement.

According to reports, Gary Rowett is the latest to turn down the chance to come to Craven Cottage after deciding to stay at Birmingham City.

Steve Clarke had earlier rebuffed Fulham to remain at Reading, while former Leicester City boss Nigel Pearson has also dropped out of the reckoning.

Irresistible offer

As LWN went to press, the club were being linked with former Brentford manager Mark Warburton but he is well poised to lead Glasgow Rangers to promotion in his first season at Ibrox, so it will take an irresistible offer to lure him back to west London in mid-season.

In the meantime, caretaker Peter Grant was still holding the fort on Saturday, when a late Ross McCormack goal salvaged a point in a 1-1 home draw with struggling Preston North End.

The Scot's sublime free-kick, which crashed in



■ PETER Grant during Saturday's draw

off the crossbar at the Hammersmith end, spared Grant's blushes after the interim boss was forced to abandon his starting tactics.

His midfield diamond formation was hopelessly exposed by a Preston side that have rarely enjoyed such freedom and attacking penetration since their promotion to the second tier last May. Fulham were grateful the visitors did not add to their lead through Joe Garner's 11th minute header.

When frustrated Fulham fans jeered Grant's substitution of Sean Kavanagh, which heralded the half-time change to a 3-5-2 system with attacking wing-backs, it was a job to know whether they were directing their ire at the player, who looked all at sea in an unfamiliar role, or the anxious looking track-suited figure on the touchline.

Afterwards, Grant attempted to explain how a back injury to Sakari Mattila brought about an enforced late change: "The first half was difficult for us," said the Scot. "We had to make a change right at the 11th hour, which upset us a bit. Not the personnel, but just because of the way we'd been training all week with Mattila."

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